

Jordan Times

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'Doe shot and captured by rebels'

MONROVIA (AP) — President Samuel Doe was shot in the leg and captured Sunday by a breakaway rebel faction during heavy fighting in Monrovia, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported Sunday. More than 60 people, including dozens of Doe's bodyguards, were slain in the fighting with rebels led by Prince Johnson, the BBC World Service reported. The president was shot in the leg and taken away by the rebels, the BBC correspondent in Monrovia reported, quoting witnesses. Johnson then called the BBC to say he had declared himself president until an interim government can be installed. The BBC quoted the rebel leader as saying Doe would be put on trial and dealt with according to the law. Rebels accuse Doe of nepotism, stealing millions of dollars of state money and holding him responsible for the deaths of thousands of civilians who have died in the eight-month-old civil war. Liberia now has three people who claim to be its president: Doe, Johnson and Charles Taylor, leader of the mainstream rebel National Patriotic Front. Liberia's civil war began on Dec. 24 when Johnson helped lead rebels loyal to Taylor in an invasion from Ivory Coast. In March, Johnson broke away to form his own faction.

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UAE envoy visits Yemen; rally in Sanaa

SANAA (R) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) envoy met Sunday with Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh as thousands of Yemenis demonstrated in Sanaa in support of Iraq. Radio Sanaa said UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Al Naimi handed the Yemeni president a letter from the emirates' president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. It gave no details of the message but diplomatic sources said it was likely to focus on the Gulf crisis. As U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met in Helsinki to discuss the crisis some 100,000 Yemeni demonstrators took to the streets in Sanaa, expressing support for Iraq. The protesters walked to the U.S. and Soviet embassies where they read a statement calling on the two presidents to work out a settlement to avoid war in the region.

Thatcher may stay another five years

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Sunday she may stay in office another five years and would not rule out being prime minister at the age of 70. "I am not immortal, but I've got a lot left in me yet," said Thatcher, who will be 65 next month. "Some people started their administration at the age of 70, but I wouldn't necessarily do that, that is just through to the next election and right up to the following one," she said on an independent television interview. But, the prime minister told interviewer David Frost, "I am not going to give you the chance to say that she is going to go on and on and on." Thatcher said she wanted to lead the party into the next election, which must be called in 1991 or 1992.

Mitterrand to visit Egypt soon

CAIRO (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand will visit Egypt soon, Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement was quoted as saying Sunday. Chevenement, on a three-day visit to Egypt to discuss the Gulf crisis, told the Middle East News Agency Mitterrand would be coming to Egypt "within the framework of the strong relations that bind the two countries and the friendly and personal relations that bind the two leaders." The French head of state has come to Egypt on working trips and holidays several times in recent years and has close ties with President Hosni Mubarak.

Iraq reopens restaurants

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has allowed many restaurants to reopen on condition they served snacks and drinks only, government officials said Sunday. Restaurants throughout Iraq had been closed since the United Nations-imposed trade embargo. The order had excluded cheap restaurants and snack bars, but many had closed or restricted service for lack of food supplies. Iraq has introduced food rationing because of the U.N. embargo.

Iraq denies report of border blasts

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq has denied a Syrian report of explosions near their border. Syria's official news agency SANA said residents in the eastern region of Abu Kamal heard 46 explosions in the nearby Iraq town of Al Qaim Sunday. It said mosques on the Iraqi side of the border used loudspeakers to call for blood donors. The Iraqi News Agency quoted an official source as saying the SANA report was "a baseless fabrication." The Syrian agency offered no explanation of the reported explosions. Al Qaim is a farming community on the Euphrates River 280 kilometres northwest of Baghdad. The border between Iraq and Syria has been closed for years.

Bush, Gorbachev agree to seek political solution to Gulf crisis

Superpowers differ on use of force, say if political efforts fail further action will be within U.N. Charter ● Food to Iraq possible on humanitarian grounds under scrutiny

Combined agency dispatches

HELSINKI — U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed Sunday that the Gulf conflict should be resolved through political means.

While Bush and Gorbachev ended their emergency summit with a joint demand that Iraq pull out of Kuwait, they were split on the use of force to end the crisis.

The two leaders issued a statement calling on the entire world community to adhere to United Nations sanctions against Iraq, but recognising that the U.N. resolutions permit the shipment of food into Iraq and Kuwait for "humanitarian" considerations.

Any such imports "must be strictly monitored" to make sure they meet humanitarian concerns

"with special priority being given to meeting the needs of children," the leaders said.

It was the first time since World War II that the United States and the Soviet Union had lined up on the same side of a major regional conflict, and further evidence that the cold war is fading into history.

"We may have a difference on that," Bush said when asked about the use of troops at a joint news conference after a summit.

Gorbachev said military force "would drag us into a situation with unpredictable results."

"I think our two states and the United Nations have a huge arsenal of means at our disposal to resolve the situation through political measures."

He said later he saw no point in military action now although any

measures would be within the context of U.N. rules, which allow for force as a last resort.

"I'm not disappointed in that answer," Bush said.

Bush and Gorbachev said they wanted and hoped for a peaceful solution to the crisis but said they were "united in the belief that Iraq's aggression must not be tolerated."

"If the current steps fail to end it, we are prepared to consider additional ones consistent with the U.N. charter," said the statement.

Bush said he and Gorbachev agreed they will accept no Gulf settlement "short of the complete implementation" of the U.N. sanctions that demand an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Gorbachev pointedly corrected a Soviet journalist who quoted

him as saying the Soviet Union would take military steps if Iraq fails to pull out of Kuwait on its own.

"I did not say that if Iraq does not withdraw peacefully, we're going to have recourse to military methods. ... I do not state that," said the Soviet leader.

"The whole of our seven hours of meeting today were devoted to the quest for a political resolution of that conflict, and I believe that we are on the right road," Gorbachev said.

Bush and Gorbachev discussed the prospect of U.S. economic aid to Moscow, but came to no conclusion. Bush said he was interested in efforts to help Moscow's new economic policies, and vowed to cooperate in as many ways as possible.

Gorbachev and Bush went into

their third meeting in less than a year after an eve-of-summit declaration from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that their efforts were futile.

The Iraqi leader, in a televised statement, also told the Soviet Union it was in danger of being eclipsed as a world power by the United States.

Gorbachev said no one was trying to exclude Iraq from the world community but added: "What the present leadership of Iraq is doing is driving their country up a blind alley."

He said it was possible Soviet officials would have more meetings with Iraqi leaders and reported that the United States had now conceded a Soviet role in the Middle East.

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Superpower statement

The following joint statement was issued Sunday morning by Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and President George Bush before a press conference together at the close of their one-day summit.

With regard to Iraq's invasion and continued military occupation of Kuwait, President Bush and President Gorbachev issue the following joint statement:

We are united in the belief that Iraq's aggression must not be tolerated. No peaceful international order is possible if larger states can devour their smaller neighbours. We reaffirm the joint statement of our foreign ministers of Aug. 3, 1990, and our support for United Nations Security Council Resolution 660, 661, 662, 664, and 665.

Today, we once again call upon the government of Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait, to allow the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government, and to free all hostages now held in Iraq and Kuwait (which the Security Council resolutions demanded).

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King reassures India of all possible facilities for evacuees

Queen visits camps, comforts thousands

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday reaffirmed Jordan's keen interest and willingness to extend all possible facilities to Indian nationals leaving Kuwait across the Iraqi border through Jordan.

The reaffirmation came during a meeting the King held with Indian Transport Minister K.P. Unnikrishnan who is currently visiting Jordan to assess and organise the evacuation process of the tens of thousands of his countrymen arriving in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq.

During the meeting, which was also attended by two Indian state ministers, N.M. Joseph of Kerala and Churchill Alemao of Goa, Unnikrishnan conveyed to the King the Indian government's thanks and appreciation of the facilities that Jordan extends to the evacuees, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The minister also reaffirmed that the Indian government had stepped up the evacuation process, Petra said. The meeting was attended by Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gajendra Singh.

Unnikrishnan arrived here Friday and visited several camps where Indian evacuees are awaiting homeward flights.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan accompanied the minister of a visit to the Shaalan I camp in the no-man's-land, which holds about 11,000 Indian evacuees.

Her Majesty Queen Noor toured the dismal desert camps

Sunday jammed with tens of thousands of Asian refugees, bringing them words of comfort as efforts to repatriate them picked up speed.

"I hope you will be home very, very soon," he said, and he was patient," the Queen kept telling the bedraggled stranded refugees who clustered round her pleading to go home.

On Saturday, the Queen toured the Shaalan I camp, the first to be set up and the one with the worst conditions. On Sunday, she visited the new and more orderly Mercy camp.

It was set up only two days ago, but already the neat lines of green army tents are filled with about 10,000 refugees.

"As of today we see a great improvement, with the gradual establishment of new camps to relieve the pressure," the Queen told reporters, adding that perhaps Jordan will be able to "shut down the first camps altogether."

"We are doing everything in our power, but we call on the rest of the world to help us... a great deal more has to be done."

She said the greatest need was for transportation to take the refugees home.

"For God's sake get us out of here, we have no food, no water, we are dying here," an Asian refugee told the Queen, echoing many other voices in the pitiful crowd.

Thousands of evacuees followed her through the camp, although many didn't know who she was.

The Queen sought to reas-

sure all those she met that they would soon be going home.

"In how many days?" an anxious woman asked.

"As soon as we can, we don't know how many days, but the airplanes are coming to take you home. It takes time and we are giving you — women and children — first priority," the Queen said.

At the Amman airport, a massive airlift of Indian refugees continued for a second day.

Air India officials in Amman said a total of 11 aircraft had flown 3,000 people home Saturday. An equal number were expected to leave Amman by air Sunday.

Another airlift, organised by the U.N. International Migration Organisation, started Thursday and continued smoothly on the weekend. The plan was to fly 19,000 Sri Lankans home over the next 11 days at the rate of about 1,400 a day.

But a senior Jordanian official at the border post said the number of repatriations "hardly keeps up with the continuing influx of new arrivals."

"We need a massive international airlift operation to run for weeks if we want to solve the problem before the abysmal conditions in the camps result in a human tragedy," said the official.

The Queen urged the international community to make available more planes and funds "to take all these tens of thousands of poor people home."

Jordan's stand on Gulf crisis is principled, but is misinterpreted — Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis is based on the principle of rejecting the acquisition of territory by force, but this position has been misinterpreted by many, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday.

"We have been against the acquisition of territory by war on principle for self-determination since the inception of the Palestinian problem," the Crown Prince said in an interview with the British television. "I would like to say that it is because we are standing on principle and not because we are looking at the smaller thing... that we have been given a rough ride and have been misinterpreted..."

The interview was conducted by David Frost from morning television T.V.-AM in London and presented on Jordan Television Sunday evening.

In reply to a question about his reaction to a statement by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that Iraq's policy constitutes danger to the neighbours of Iraq, including Jordan, Prince Hassan said:

I react, Sir, by saying that I heard the same voice of Mrs. Thatcher over the telephone of my home when my brother, His Majesty the King, was dining during those days of the Falklands crisis when she called on Jordan to stand on the point of principle in voting with them

against the acquisition of territory by war and for self-determination. We have been against the acquisition of territory by war on principle for self-determination since the inception of the Palestinian problem, and I would like to say that it is because we are standing on principle and not because we were looking at the smaller thing, if I understood there correctly, that we have been given such a rough ride and have been so misinterpreted for the last four weeks.

As far as the Falklands were concerned I did mention to Mrs. Thatcher some weeks after the crisis the question raised by an Arab writer: Why did the sheep bells of the Falklands ring louder

than the church bells of Jerusalem? So I would like to say that there is a great deal of ideological and principal content in what Jordan has done. In fact, it is all principle, and I think that as far as this crisis is concerned it is very clear that we have said no to annexation of Kuwait because we have to say no to the annexation of Kuwait otherwise we would accept, God forbid, the annexation of Jerusalem. So this is very clear in our minds and I hope it is clear in the British government's mind.

Q: You do not feel that those editorials say that Jordan has been sitting on the fence?

(Continued on page 5)

Top Deri aides held in spiralling Israeli scandal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Police Sunday detained for questioning six top aides to Interior Minister Aryeh Deri in connection with allegations that Deri misappropriated government funds, Israel Radio reported.

National police spokesman Roni Ishaya refused comment on the report, also carried by army radio and the Itim news agency.

Deri, interior minister since 1988, was questioned by police last week about allegations that he funnelled public funds through local government councils to religious institutions run by his ultra-orthodox Shas party.

The case, widely reported in the Israeli media, has become known as Israel's "Watergate" since police also believe Deri supporters tapped phones of journalists and potential witnesses to block prosecution.

More than 20 telephones were believed tapped, including those of Police Commissioner Yaacov Turner and a reporter who wrote a series of articles on Deri last June in the popular daily Yediot Aharonot.

Deri has denied in a television appearance that he misused government funds. He has not commented on the reports of wiretapping.

On Sunday, police searched the homes of six top employees of Deri's office and then detained them for questioning, Israel Radio said. It said one of those detained was Deri's personal spokesman, Zvi Yaakovson.

Israel radio said the men were being questioned in connection with the possible fraud charges, not with the reported wiretapping.

Palestinian shot dead as uprising enters 34th month

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers fatally shot a Palestinian youth Sunday in the first lethal clash between troops and stone-throwing activists in nearly a month, Palestinian reports said.

The clash in the West Bank village of Beitza came as Palestinians throughout the occupied territories observed a general strike marking 34 months since the start of their uprising.

The military command confirmed that an 18-year-old Arab had been killed in Beitza, but said the army was checking the cause of death. "He was killed by gunfire of unknown origin in the back," a command spokesman said.

Palestinian reports identified the victim as Morad Abu Seif, 20, saying he died after being struck by a live bullet in the chest, apparently during a clash with soldiers.

Abu Seif arrived dead at Al Itihad hospital in Nablus several minutes after being shot and his body was spirited away shortly afterwards by Palestinian activists, the reports said.

Abu Seif is the 729th Palestinian to be killed by Israelis during the revolt.

He was also the first uprising fatality caused by Israelis since Aug. 19.

The strike, which has been a routine form of protest during the uprising, shut down businesses and public transport throughout the occupied territories. In the Gaza Strip the only available transportation was carts pulled by horses or donkeys, Israel Radio reported.

In Jerusalem, a police investigating team has recommended putting nine policemen on trial for torturing Palestinian inmates in Jerusalem's main jail, Israeli newspapers reported.

Israel Radio said investigators were seeking the immediate dismissal of one of the nine. A paramilitary border police

officer who often visits Jerusalem police cells said members of the "minorities unit" who deal with the Palestinians were investigated after a police surgeon complained they systematically injured suspects.

In June the Israeli civil rights group B'tselem published affidavits by former detainees saying they were forced to wear hoodies while being beaten and subjected to psychological pressure to confess.

The B'tselem report said many of those mistreated in the Jerusalem cells were minors.

"Almost all of the minors were interviewed by the police or the general security service (Shin Bet) testified that they had been beaten, generally severely," the report said.

A 12-year-old identified only by the initials M.R.R. told B'tselem he was beaten repeatedly during 19 hours of questioning.

A paramilitary border police

Waldegrave: Palestinian problem needs solution

LONDON (AP) — Once the Gulf crisis has been solved, the Palestinian issue must be addressed or there will be continual unrest in the Middle East, Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said Sunday.

"We cannot just go back to pretending that nothing needs to be done about the Palestinian problem, because it seems to me that that is one of the things that contributes to the underlying bitterness in the region," Waldegrave said on Independent Television.

Waldegrave said the United States would have to put pressure on Israel to compromise on the issue.

"I think that one of the things this Secretary of State (James) Baker and his president will be able to say in their Congress

'look, if we do not solve this problem' and that means potentially explaining things rather more clearly to our Israeli friends rather more clearly than we have in the past, 'if we do not solve this problem we are going to have American boys out in the desert again and again. We must do this'." Waldegrave said.

The Foreign Office minister said he had seen a "sea change" by the U.S. government on the issue of Palestine.

"I talked to the American officials and senior government people and their clarity of perception now that there really must be moves forward on the Palestinian issue would have astonished anyone knowing the State Department 10 years ago," Waldegrave said.

Waldegrave said Britain and

the European Community had already put pressure on Israel to seek a settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Waldegrave said Foreign Office Secretary Douglas Hurd returned from the Middle East three months ago and said the region was a tinder box because of the region's large number of weapons and the unresolved Palestinian issue.

"... We have to turn, assuming success in restoring law over Kuwait, we have to turn with more attention than we have in the past to that problem."

"We should never say that that is an excuse but it is linked in any casual way with this present crisis, but it is noticeable to me that the underlying bitterness created by that problem will go on creating danger in the region."

Gulf crisis likely to shock region into reforms

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia (R) — The Gulf crisis is likely to shock conservative rulers throughout the region into slowly introducing reforms, senior officials and businessmen say.

But any changes hinge on an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. The process is likely to start in the northern Gulf emirate and then spread south to Saudi Arabia and the smaller Gulf states.

"We have to institutionalise channels for communicating the desires of the people," said a former Gulf state minister who asked not to be named. "There will be tremendous changes in Kuwaiti society. It will not be the same and it will affect us all," added a Saudi Arabian oil company executive. "People will look at the deci-

sions taken in the run-up to the invasion and the small number of people involved in taking them and they will not allow it to continue. There has to be more of a popular voice," he said.

Mohammad, a middle-aged Saudi Arabian engineer, whose country has been dragged to the brink of war by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, lives in the industrial Dhamran-Khobar-Dammam area on the Gulf coast.

It would be a prime Iraqi target if fighting broke out but Mohammad believes the crisis and the unprecedented presence of tens of thousands of foreign troops could be a catalyst for change, such as more openness in government and the press.

All the Gulf states are hereditary monarchies in which

members of the ruling families control the levers of power. Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world which takes its name from that of a dynasty, Al Saud.

Supporters of ultra-conservative rule say it is tempered by public meetings with ministers and regional governors. Citizens and present petitions and complain about government policy.

Kuwait and Bahrain set up parliaments with a limited and all-male franchise. They dissolved them in 1975 and 1986 respectively, because of irreconcilable differences between parliaments and rulers.

After months of agitation by a pro-democracy movement, Kuwait held elections for a new parliament in June this year. But the opposition boycotted them because the

government retained the right to nominate 25 of the 75 legislators.

Riyadh announced plans to set up a Consultative Council after a siege of the Grand Mosque at Mecca in 1979 by Sunni Muslim militants, the idea has never blossomed.

A Saudi Arabian official said the experience of deprivation and guerrilla warfare was bound to implant radical ideas into Kuwaitis.

"I expect the Sabah family to become more of a figurehead, a symbol of the nation. The experience will also alleviate discrimination against women, who have been active in the resistance," he said.

A former Saudi Arabian minister said reform in his country should not be a sudden transformation from a family-based oligarchy to European-

style multi-party democracy. "If we introduced full democracy overnight you would find a parliament dominated by (conservative) mullahs. An atmosphere of liberalisation has to develop slowly," he said.

Mohammad the engineer would probably be happy with that. "I'm not calling for the end of the Al Saud," he said. "I just wish our society would be more open and tolerant."

Conservatives in Saudi Arabia point to the Kuwaiti experience as a reason not to follow its example.

"Democracy is a foreign word and a foreign concept and we want nothing to do with it. It means indiscipline and weak government. The Kuwaitis made a big mistake," said a Saudi Air force officer with Muslim fundamentalist

sympathies.

The Kuwaiti-government-in-exile, based near the Saudi Arabian mountain town of Taif, says it is too busy campaigning to free its country from Iraqi occupation to think much about constitutional change.

"I'm not worried about the national assembly," said Kuwaiti Planning Minister Salman Abdul Razak Al Mutawa. "(President Saddam) Hussein thought there would be a popular rush towards (the Iraqi invaders), but not a single group of Kuwaitis showed willingness to cooperate."

Ahmad Saadoun, former speaker of parliament and the main agitator for reform, has pledged allegiance to the ruling Al Sabah family and former opposition sympathisers have joined the Kuwaiti resistance.

Cup in hand, Baker reaps funds for anti-Iraq campaign

By Carol Giacomo Reuter

HELSINKI — As he left last week on a mission to raise funds for military operations and economic sanctions against Iraq, Secretary of State James Baker was given a pewter begging cup. "No less than a billion dollars, please," was the inscription on the cup presented by a reporter accompanying him.

It underscored the high cost of the U.S.-led campaign — an estimated \$28 billion will be needed — and the fact that Washington cannot pay the bills alone.

During the first phase of his mission — three days in the Middle East that ended Saturday — Baker reaped billions of dollars in support.

Wringing more from Europe and Japan may be tougher, but Baker's success so far enhances the chances that sanctions against Iraq will hold and that U.S. forces will stay in the region as long as needed.

Kuwait's emir, exiled since Iraq invaded his country on Aug. 2, pledged \$5 billion. Saudi Arabia, which also fears Iraqi attack, committed unspecified billions of dollars, including the cost of fuel, water and transport for thousands of U.S. troops there.

Baker also won a pledge from Egypt to send more troops to Saudi Arabia, although a senior U.S. official said the commitment was made before Baker's visit.

"He's been very successful," White House Chief of Staff John Sununu said of Baker's effort. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, sent by President George Bush to drum up support in London, Rome, Tokyo and Seoul, had less to show for his efforts. At each stop, there were expressions of solidarity but little hard cash.

Baker's task was easier. Kuwaiti leaders have vast wealth and are willing to spend whatever it takes to get their country back. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which U.S. officials said also responded positively to their appeals, are reaping higher oil profits because of the crisis.

Later this week, Baker is to visit West Germany, where the odds of receiving additional assistance may be slimmer. The

German parliament, burdened by costs of imminent unification, may be reluctant to offer more than it already has.

A European Community vote Friday underscored the group's aversion to paying for U.S. forces. Members agreed only to give emergency aid to countries like Egypt, Turkey and Jordan that have been hard hit by U.S. sanctions against Iraq.

"The military action of the United States was taken autonomously," noted Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis. "Don't forget the principle of no taxation without representation."

U.S. officials in Brussels pressed NATO Friday to provide more ships and planes to ferry U.S. forces in the Gulf, and Baker will probably discuss this when he stops at alliance headquarters Monday after Sunday's summit between Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Pentagon estimates the Gulf deployment, quickly ordered after Iraq's invasion, will cost \$11 billion in the next 12 months.

U.S. officials, their economy facing a potentially dangerous deficit, realised more international help was needed for what is likely to be a prolonged stand-off.

"We're more than willing to bear our fair share of the burden but we also expect others to bear their fair share," Bush said in ordering the Baker-Brady missions.

It will be easier for Bush to command domestic support for the Gulf operation if Americans know other countries — especially those that are economic competitors and depend on Gulf oil — are also bearing the burden containing Iraq.

Baker, apparently not wanting to be seen as begging, told reporters repeatedly his mission was diplomatic as well as economic. He said the U.S. response to the crisis reaffirmed U.S. leadership in world affairs.

Nevertheless, the image of Washington asking for money was highly unusual. While many in Congress urged Bush to prod Western and Arab allies to share more of the burden, some lawmakers voiced madding fears that U.S. troops might seem to be available for rent.

Pakistan to send food to stranded nationals in Gulf

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan, reportedly at the request of Baghdad, is sending 30 tons of food to its citizens stranded in the Gulf, a government spokesman said Sunday.

There were about 130,000 Pakistanis in Iraq and Kuwait, and only 25,000 have been repatriated since the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait, said the spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Islamabad has been concerned about the safety of its citizens in the Gulf, particularly since some 5,000 Pakistani troops are being sent to help defend Saudi Arabia against possible attack by Iraqi forces.

The ambassadors of Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were summoned to the Iraqi Foreign Office Thursday and told that Baghdad wouldn't be able to feed their citizens anymore, according to Pakistani news reports. They were asked to send food and other supplies for their citizens living in Kuwait and Iraq.

Reports have suggested that Asian workers in Iraq and Kuwait may starve to death without immediate assistance. Several international relief agencies already

have sent teams to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, where the Asian workers who escaped from Iraq are camped.

But they said it was impossible to send supplies into Iraq and Kuwait because of United Nations embargo and fear that Iraqi troops might seize the supplies.

Reports from Kuwait indicate that Iraqi troops are being given first priority in receiving available food and that foreigners and Kuwaitis alike are suffering from a U.N. trade embargo meant to force Iraq to leave Kuwait.

The Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan would send a supply plane to Jordan this week. The supplies would then be sent on to Iraq, he said.

He said Pakistan was also considering sending a shipload of food and other supplies to the Gulf but "is afraid that it may violate the U.N. embargo against Iraq," he said. "Islamabad is in touch with the United States and other allies to resolve this crisis."

He said Pakistan also had considered flying food and medicines directly to Iraq.

India has been ferrying plane loads of its citizens out of the Gulf.

Pope prays for peace in Gulf

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Pope John Paul II said he was praying that Sunday's superpower summit in Helsinki brings peace and "fair solutions" to the Gulf.

"We must now create for humanity an era of peace, based on justice and the respect of the rights of individuals and nations," the Pontiff said on the last day of his three-day visit to this Central African nation. He was later heading to Ivory Coast, the last leg of a 10-day African pilgrimage.

Pope John Paul spoke shortly after U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev began talks in Helsinki, Finland, on the crisis.

In remarks following an open-air mass in the Rwandan capital, the Pope urged the faithful to join him in prayers for "all those who work in today's world in favour of peace, especially peace in the Gulf."

The Pope said that throughout his African trip he has followed the situation "with anxiety, fervently hoping that the efforts taken by the United Nations and by the different governments of the Arab countries and other concerned countries permit the finding of fair solutions."

"May our prayers be lifted to God especially for the success of the meeting today in Helsinki, so that it contributes to fulfilling our hopes," he said in French.

"May the Lord inspire the leaders of the two great nations upon whom weigh the responsibilities for peace in the world, as well as all those who can and must contribute, so that they become truly creators of peace."

The Pope said his prayers for peace were aimed "especially for the good of all the people of the Middle East who are so dear to us."

It was the third time the Pope has spoken publicly about the Gulf crisis. Two weeks ago he decried the "grave violations of human rights and of the U.N. charter."

Last week on the flight carrying him to Africa, Pope John Paul rebuked Iraq by name but said "everything possible" must be done to avoid a military solution to the crisis. He suggested the best hopes for a peaceful settlement rest with the United Nations.

In his homily during Sunday's mass, attended by about 100,000 people on a dirt hillside, the Pope returned to the issue of AIDS — a recurring theme during his travels through Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. All three countries are hard hit by the disease (see page 8).

U.S. troops in Gulf say morale flagging

WITH U.S. FORCES, Saudi Arabia (R) — U.S. troops ready to face an Iraqi invasion say morale is flagging as they sit in the desert with little to do except think of ways to stay cool and comfortable.

Merciless sun, searing heat and the isolation of camp sites are beginning to take their toll on soldiers prepared to cope with hardship — provided there is a goal or an end in sight.

"My highest concern is that we're going to carry on for weeks and nothing will happen," said Lieutenant-Colonel Dick White, commander of a Marine Aircraft Squadron rushed to Saudi Arabia after Iraq seized Kuwait on Aug. 2.

"The Marines were all pumped up — they expected they would have to stem a force coming out of the Kuwait border as soon as

they arrived," he said. "But if we just sit here for a long time there will be a natural let down because there is not much to do except think of ways to stay cool, or get a hot meal and a soft place to sleep."

Pilots in White's squadron who fly the AV8B vertical take-off Harrier fighter say their biggest hardship is the prospect of being confined to their base indefinitely. They cannot telephone home and have nothing to look forward to except an occasional hot meal or shower.

To avoid heat-stress many soldiers work two to three-hour shifts. Endless off-duty hours are whittled away playing cards, chess and rereading old magazines they brought with them. Activities like football and running are possible only during the early morning or early evening when temperatures

are lower. The hardest thing is it's extremely boring," said Captain David Carnish, 28, from Colorado Springs.

"We had high expectations when we came over here. Our adrenaline was going, but now there's a lull... morale is dropping for sure," he said.

Captain Glenn Melin, 31, from Oregon, said he feared being overwhelmed by paperwork instead of flying into combat for the first time.

"It's like being up for a big rise and having it, postponed until further notice," he said.

The Harrier squadron, stationed closer to the border with Kuwait than any other aircraft group in Saudi Arabia, arrived three weeks ago. The United States has 100,000 troops in the Gulf.

2 killed as 2 Cairo trains crash

CAIRO (AP) — Two trains crashed near Cairo, killing two Egyptians and slightly wounding four Britons and two Germans, a newspaper and British embassy official said Sunday.

Al-Gomhuriya newspaper said the two trains were carrying around 2,000 passengers. It said two Egyptian passengers were killed and a small number were wounded. It said that the casualties were limited because both trains were near a station and moving slowly.

The paper said the accident was caused by human error, and that the main worker who gave the green light to both trains to move along the same line at the same time was arrested.

The accident took place near Badrashin Station, around 25 kilometres south of Cairo. One of the trains was going to Aswan in southern Egypt, site of ancient Egyptian relics and a popular resort for both foreigners and Egyptians. The destination of the second train was not mentioned.

A British embassy consular officer said embassy officials who drove down to Badrashin Hospital Saturday night found three young British women and a British man there.

"One of the British women was totally uninjured and the other three had minor injuries. They were in shock, with bruises. They were all discharged and we brought them back to Cairo, put them in a hotel and have arranged for further medical check ups if they want them," said the consular officer.

The four were tourists travelling together in Aswan. He said two young German women were also at the hospital "in shock, with bruises but no significant injuries."

Hurd: Japan should expand Gulf role

TOKYO (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Sunday Japan should send troops to the Gulf if possible.

He told reporters that as a big economic power, Japan had asked to have a bigger say in the major political issues in the world and this carried a price tag with it.

Hurd is in Tokyo for annual Anglo-Japanese foreign minister talks Monday, when he will also meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and address business leaders.

Asked what Japan should do to assist the multinational force in the Gulf, Hurd said he expected it to go further than measures already announced, which include \$1 billion for the force and \$22 million for refugees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait.

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Japan about how far it can go under its constitution to send personnel, military or not, to join the multinational force.

Hurd said there were three main costs that were mounting all the time — involving the multinational force, the refugees, mostly Asian, fleeing Iraq and Kuwait, and countries in the region suffering from implementing U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Asked if he would welcome Soviet troops in the multinational force, he said: "We see no objection to Soviet troops."

He said it was very important to keep together the "extraordinary coalition" that had formed against Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait.

"The Soviet Union was closest to Saddam Hussein. It armed him and helped him and has been willing to put that in reverse. It is important that the Soviet Union should stay that way," he said.

Asked if Britain would send ground troops to join the ships and aircraft it has already sent to the Gulf, he said more measures

would be announced in a day or so.

Asked if Iraq should be given a ladder with which to climb down, Hurd said that the Iraqi leader had kicked away most of the ladders.

There is not much scope. There is no room for negotiations on the three main points — release of the hostages, withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoration of the Kuwaiti government," Hurd said.

Meanwhile U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost also asked Japan to contribute more to Western efforts against Iraq, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported Sunday.

The Public Broadcasting Network said Armacost welcomed as a "first step" Japan's pledge last month to provide \$1 billion to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf but said Japan should play a leadership role in line with its economic strength.

Officials were not available late Sunday to confirm Armacost's comment.

Scandinavian diplomats reach Baghdad

STOCKHOLM (R) — The last remaining Swedish and Norwegian diplomats in Kuwait arrived in Baghdad Sunday after an 11-hour bus journey, the Swedish Foreign Ministry said.

The Swedish and Norwegian diplomats arrived in Baghdad early Sunday. They were tired after the long journey but in good health. "Ingrid Iremark of the Swedish Foreign Ministry told Reuters.

The three Norwegian and two Swedish diplomats, including the countries' ambassadors, were instructed by their governments to leave Kuwait due to worsening conditions.

"The situation is very dramatic, especially for the large numbers of Asian guest workers in

Kuwait," Norwegian Ambassador Wilhelm Longva told NRK public radio from Baghdad.

"We have heard descriptions of the situation in Jordan and Iraq. What one hears about there is the tip of an iceberg," he added, declining to elaborate.

Longva said the diplomats would try to leave for Norway and Sweden. "We had Iraqi personnel with us in the vehicle (from Kuwait). We had no problems of any kind."

Iremark said it was still unclear whether the Swedish diplomats could leave Iraq for their home countries.

"We will discuss their possible departure with the Iraqi authorities later," she said.

The Swedish ambassador to Kuwait, Ingolf Kiesow, told Swedish radio that although his residence had not been surrounded by Iraqi troops he had in effect been under house arrest.

"In reality we were prisoners. It was very clear we could not go out," Kiesow said, adding that their water and electricity supplies had not been cut off.

Both Norway and Sweden stressed that the departure of their diplomats meant their embassies were left unstaffed but not closed as ordered by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Several embassies in Kuwait have been similarly evacuated but other diplomats are still resisting, soaring temperatures and dwindling supplies of food and water.

Palestinians renew battles in S. Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian groups battled for the third day running in south Lebanon Sunday, setting buildings in this port city ablaze.

Security sources said at least 5,000 families fled Sidon after clashes between fighters loyal to PLO leader Yasser Arafat and gunmen of Abu Nidal's radical Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) intensified during the night.

"I had to take my family to a safer area because the fighting was around our home. People are leaving the city and the fighting is spreading everywhere here," said 48-year-old Mohammad Hussni.

At least three people were killed and 20 wounded on Sunday, taking the toll since Friday to 31 dead and 200 wounded.

"I saw Palestinian families who left their refugee camp taking shelter near the Jewish cemetery. Some were sitting at the seashore waiting for the fighting to subside," said Hussein Hamad, a driver.

Witnesses said a shell hit a Syrian army checkpoint on the outskirts of the city and two Lebanese soldiers in a car were wounded. Shelling set shops, apartments and cars on fire.

The PLO fighters have vowed to drive the FRC from the area. Abu Yasser, Arafat's senior military aide in Lebanon, said the FRC had been behind the abduction of several westerners.

"The kidnapping of the Swiss workers, some French... affected the city of Sidon and the Palestinian cause," he said. "For a few dollars only they do such crimes in the name of the Palestinian people."

Zaid Wehbe, Arafat's representative in Lebanon, said on Saturday: "Abu Nidal is a threat to our cause... We have decided to end the presence of Abu Nidal's followers in the Sidon area."

Arafat's men on Friday drove FRC guerrillas from positions inside Ain El Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp east of Sidon, the biggest in Lebanon. The FRC then rained shells on the camp from hillside bases.

Sidon became the last stronghold of Abu Nidal's fighters after Arafat backed a rebellion in the FRC at Rashideh refugee camp in the southern port of Tyre in July.

The PLO issued a death sentence 16 years ago against Abu Nidal after accusing him of plotting to kill Arafat.

Abu Nidal then broke with Arafat's Fateh movement and founded the FRC, which attacked Israeli and western targets in Europe in the 1980s.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-119

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programmes
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 News in Arabic
21:40 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 Documentary
18:30 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:20 Mystery movie: "Bl Striker"

PRAYER TIMES

04:52 Fajr
06:11 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:33 Dhuhr
16:11 Asr
18:54 Maghrib
20:13 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweidih
Tel. 831740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Association Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Teresian Church Tel. 622566

Church of the Association Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383

625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min. max. temp.

Arab jurists blast U.S. double standard policies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The third Arab jurists conference, which opened at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, has sent a cable to the Soviet U.S. summit in Helsinki demanding the withdrawal of foreign forces from Arab lands and calling for a more balanced and equitable treatment of various world issues by the U.N. Security Council and major world powers.

"The conference deplores the double standard policies in the application of international laws and especially in dealing with the Gulf crisis," said the cable.

"While sanctions are imposed on Iraq in the name of international laws and the U.N. Security Council charter, nothing has been done in the same vein to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the Palestine problem over the past 40 years, and nothing has been done to end the tragedy and the sufferings of the oppressed Palestinian people," the cable added.

"Using the United Nations as a tool to violate the basic international principles and laws is a serious matter and the current attempts to starve the Iraqi people through embargo is a flagrant violation of the U.N. charter and basic human rights," said the cable.

The cable demanded that President Bush and Gorbachev shoulder responsibility towards world peace and help avert a catastrophe in the Gulf region.

At its Sunday session the conference discussed the Palestine problem, the intifada, the effect of U.S.-Soviet relations on Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the Arab Israeli conflict. On Sunday's agenda was the question of continued Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the Iraqi initiative to establish permanent peace with Iran.

Dr. Mazen Ismail Ramadan, from Iraq, presented a research paper dealing with current threats to his country and giving details about the Gulf crisis.

The Secretary-General of the Arab Jurists Federation Shabbir Al Maliki said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that there was no alternative to a holy war which would mobilise Arab and Islamic power to drive foreign forces from the Arab land.

Referring to the present massing of foreign forces in the Gulf, Maliki said that the United States and its allies had been planning to launch an aggression on Iraq before the Gulf crisis, and were active in prolonging the Iranian-Iraqi conflict to serve their own selfish purposes and to destroy Iraq's military strength.

Lawyers and specialists in international law from the Arab World are taking part in the three day conference here under the slogan: "Let us all struggle to evict U.S. and Zionist invaders from Arab land and defend human rights and ensure the supremacy of law."

The conference is being attended by jurists from various Arab organisations and prominent personalities concerned with human rights and human freedoms, according to Maliki.

Altogether six working papers will be discussed by the participants, dealing with various issues pertaining to the present situation in the Arab region and the need for evicting the foreign troops from Arab land, according to Maliki.

He said the first paper deals with the Gulf crisis, the second tackles the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the third paper deals with the Palestine problem.

According to Maliki, the other papers will discuss basic human freedoms, pluralism, freedom of the press, provisions of the international humanitarian law and the freedom of the judiciary.

4,669 cross into Jordan Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — An official statistics bulletin issued here Sunday revealed that a total of 4,669 evacuees crossed the Ruweisah border post into Jordan Saturday including 110 Americans evacuated from Iraq.

The bulletin said that there were at least 988 Egyptians and 139 Thais among evacuees who included Yemenis and Filipinos as well.

Brigadier Muayyed Mubaslat, assistant director-general of the Public Security Department (PSD), Aliens and Borders Affairs section, said that until Saturday evening the total number of evacuees housed in centres around Amman was 29,969, and those housed at Ruweisah and Shaalan One camp totalled 50,000.

People housed at the Amman International Fair Centre at Marj Al Hamam are estimated at 18,022, at Andalus camp 3,920 and at the Automobile Exhibition Centre, on the Queen Alia International Airport highway, 1,060.

Mubaslat said that these numbers were expected to grow in view of the continuous flow of evacuees through Ruweisah and the lack of proper action on the part of the concerned governments to ensure the transportation of their nationals.

According to the bulletin, the total number of evacuees of different nationalities, crossing into Jordan through Ruweisah since the beginning of last month, was 430,000 and only 80,000 had been moved to camps and makeshift tents around Ruweisah and other areas of Jordan.

According to a bulletin issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), a total of 7,191, have left Jordan by air on Sunday, Sept. 8 alone.

Deputies voice support for King's stand on Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday voiced full support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts at the Arab and international levels to contain the Gulf crisis, and said that the crisis should be tackled within the Arab framework.

In a cable sent by Speaker Suleiman Arar to King Hussein, the House said that the King's endeavours emanate from the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which were predicated on ending foreign presence in the Arab region.

"The members of the Lower House of Parliament take pride in your efforts to deal with the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework," said the cable.

"The House members deeply appreciate your quick response to the new challenge which poses serious threats to the Arab and Islamic Nation and strongly back your relentless endeavours to contain the crisis," added the cable.

"The Jordanian people and their representatives in Parliament stand solidly behind your courageous stand and take pride in your wise leadership," the cable concluded.

King Hussein's endeavours and Jordan's efforts to deal with the crisis were explained to the Lower House of Parliament Saturday by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

House member Issa Reimouni proposed sending the cable to the King in expression of appreciation of his efforts to defuse tension in the Gulf.

Coordination paves the way for smooth evacuation

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA), 20 days after the biggest rush it witnessed in its six years of existence — due to the influx of refugees from the Gulf after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2 — was calm and quiet.

According to Aqel Bitagi, the Executive Vice President of Customers Service Department at QAIA, the rush at the Jordanian airports started on Aug. 19 with more than 40 non-scheduled flights taking home about 15,000 stranded evacuees daily. These flights, added to the Royal Jordanian regular 25-30 flights a day, would bring the number to almost 100 daily, "a huge number and a tremendous responsibility on our operators," said Bitagi.

Royal Jordanian (RJ), fulfills three functions, according to officials. It is the national carrier and as such during the Gulf crisis it had to adapt itself to "surprise" programmes. Regularly scheduled flights to Bangkok, Manila, Colombo, Cairo and Sanaa carried evacuees home. Special trips were also made to the Gulf countries, to North Africa and to Europe. "The volume of transportation increased 60-70 per cent in terms of tonne per kilometre," according to Bitagi.

In its capacity as a carrier specialised in servicing the Kingdom, RJ is also responsible for accepting passengers, getting information about all plans for their transportation, preparing flight papers and papers for distributing passengers, according to Bitagi. It is therefore responsible for offering technical assistance to all planes needing which require such services. During the rush period RJ had an important role to play in helping planes spend the minimum time on

ground (economising time for passengers and money for the carrier). It also prepared the three civil airports in the Kingdom (QAIA, Marka, Aqaba), to enable them accommodate the 15,000 passengers daily. "One day we had as many as 17,000 people," Bitagi said. "For airports built to operate on much smaller scale (QAIA under normal conditions can take a flow of 1,800 passengers daily) the effort must be really taxing," an observer said.

According to RJ officials, until Sept. 7 there had been 700 non-scheduled flights from the three airports in Jordan. RJ operators have serviced all kinds of planes. We serviced planes we had never seen before or from countries where we never fly. One such plane is the Soviet made Antonov, a creation that makes you wonder if it could ever leave the ground and fly. It has a capacity of 400 tonnes and it could carry at the same time some 450 passengers. The four-engine plane, initially built for the air force, has the front wheels slide front and the belly touch the ground. The whole nose then unhinges, opening wide for a wagon rail to extend, facilitating the loading and unloading process.

As an integral part of civil aviation, RJ's various departments: customs, security, counters, are working in full coordination, according to Bitagi. It is due to this coordination that the departure of 5,000 passengers could be facilitated "at any given time." And it is coordination again, this time between airports and the evacuees camps administration, the Department of Immigration and Foreigners, the travel agents, that the situation on Sept. 8 at the airport was calm and normal.

Until Sept. 7, according to RJ officials, there had been 267 non-scheduled flights transporting 45,000 people.

If between Aug. 20 to 25 the situation was chaotic and the grounds of the airport were filled with thousands of people hoping to get a place on a plane and go home. Now things seem to be well under control. Transport of evacuees from Ruweisah border post to camps and from there to the airports is synchronised, leaving no room for disorder, said Bitagi. The Ministry of Interior also coordinates with embassies, obtaining the number of passengers to be brought at the airport. All data is punched into the computer speeding up the departure process.

According to the head of the Border and Immigration Department at the airport, evacuees are exempted from paying airport tax if they leave the country within a week after arrival. Transit passengers are also exempted in line with airport regulations.

According to officials, RJ stands to gain from all the bustling activity. Parking taxes, ground services plus flights are all paid for in cash. And if most people's aim is to reach home as fast as possible, others, namely Egyptians, are still trying to break some rules. Estimates show that about 120,000 Egyptians have entered Jordan since the Gulf crisis began, but 150,000 have left Jordan. About 30,000 already residing in Jordan took advantage of some benefits offered to the evacuees, including free tickets and airport tax exemption. Customs officials said that in one day they had confiscated one tonne of tea from 9,000 Egyptians who left Jordan on Sept. 7. But such incidents are "rare," according to customs officials.

Asked if RJ would charter planes for future airlifts, Bitagi said: "If people continue to come like this RJ will have to charter planes."

So far, things looked calm and under control at Queen Alia International Airport.

Larger numbers enrol in vocational training courses

AMMAN (J.T.) — An increasing number of students tend to take vocational training courses rather than the academic courses as a result of measures recently introduced by the Ministry of Education, making vocational courses more attractive, according to Ali Nasrallah, director of Vocational Training Department at the Ministry of Education.

"The ministry has recently introduced programmes combining vocational and academic courses to attract more and more students to trades of different types," Nasrallah said in a statement here Sunday.

This year the ministry noticed that more students have opted for vocational training, their number standing at 10,797, Nasrallah added.

He said that students felt vocational training was more rewarding and trades were badly needed in the labour market to promote socio-economic development.

The Ministry of Education is currently conducting a field survey in Madaba and Maan to determine the number of illiterate persons before embarking on adult and literacy education projects in the two areas, according to Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki.

"Adult education and literacy centres projects are expected to be carried out in Madaba and Maan on a large scale once the survey was completed," Karaki, who is also Acting Minister of Education, said at a press conference, marking "World Literacy Day."

At the same time, he said, the Ministry of Education is going ahead with the construction of adult education and literacy centres in the Jordan Valley, expected to benefit 47 villages and population centres.

Karaki stressed the government's keenness to maintain and increase efforts for the eradication of illiteracy in the country. Plans are being drawn up for reducing the 20 per cent rate of illiteracy in Jordan to eight per cent by the end of the century, the minister said.

Ministry of Education's Director of Academic Education Hassan Al Usta said last week that the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan in addition to the United Nations Development Programme have together offered to finance educational projects in 61 villages in Jordan.

In a bid to eradicate illiteracy, through the ministry's programmes 500 centres were set up and more than 106,000 people benefited from their courses so far, Usta said.

The minister told the press conference that the serious dangers posed to various nations' social and economic sectors by illiteracy triggered the idea of naming 1990 the year for the eradication of illiteracy.

In addition to the centres offering literacy education, which can accommodate up to 40,000 persons in Jordan, the Ministry of Education is also determined to open evening classes at schools, Karaki said.

He said the ministry would pursue its relentless efforts to universalise basic education.

NPC, ESCWA sign agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Population Committee (NPC) and the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding, paving the way for joint studies and programmes in population fields in Jordan and for an exchange of views and expertise and information in matters related to population activities.

Under the memorandum the two sides pledge to cooperate in organising symposiums and to provide the requirements for programmes to train local personnel in population activities fields.

The two sides will set up meetings by experts and will facilitate the use and employment of technical facilities available to either side.

The memorandum was signed by Minister of Labour Qaseem Obaidat, in his capacity as chairman of the NPC, and ESCWA's Executive Secretary-General Tayseer Abul Jabbar.

The NPC, which was established here two years ago, last year received \$150,000 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to help finance its programmes and research work.

The committee supervises studies on motherhood, childhood and fertility as well as studies conducted on the Jordanian workforce, women's participation in development, population growth and migration.

According to committee members, the NPC aims at laying down the foundation for a national population strategy, reflecting Jordan's hopes and aspirations for social and economic development.

Jordan, India discuss trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting Indian Deputy Minister of Trade V.D.N. Rao and Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah Sunday reviewed here ways to increase the volume of exchanged goods and trade between Jordan and India as well as initiating joint economic ventures.

Rao, who discussed Indian purchases of phosphate and the selling of Indian products to Jordan Saturday at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, followed up the discussions with Dr. Abdullah, focusing special attention on joint ventures.

Abdullah welcomed Rao's proposals and said encouraging private sectors in the two countries to conduct research in areas for investments would be useful.

The minister also underlined the need for Jordan and India to diversify their imports.

Rao voiced his country's satisfaction with the development of trade and economic ties with Jordan and said that he was now "better informed of Jordan's policies concerning investment development projects."

Rao Saturday expressed hope of increased trading links between the two countries and said his country was hoping to sell more goods and adjust the balance of trade which is now heavily in favour of Jordan.

The total volume of trade between the two countries, Rao said, exceeds \$200 million in value, of which India currently sells only \$20 million worth of its national products on Jordanian markets.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Yemen discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat Sunday received several directors of the Ministry of Agriculture in Yemen and reviewed with them scopes of cooperation in agriculture between Jordan and Yemen. The minister affirmed the need to enhance and promote cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of exchanging expertise and trading agricultural commodities.

Arabiya, farmers discuss exports

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat met Sunday with the private sector exporters and discussed with them the export situation in view of the developments in the Gulf region. The meeting was attended by the director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), director of the ministry's Department of Agricultural Economy and several of the ministry's officials.

Australia provides aid for repatriation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Australia will provide 250,000 Australian dollars to assist the repatriation of people stranded in Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries, the minister for foreign affairs and trade, Senator Gareth Evans announced Friday. The fund will be channelled through the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) and are additional to the AU\$250,000 provided last week to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to assist refugees as they cross the border into Jordan. IOM is working to provide accelerated departure mechanisms including transport ships and charter aircraft for the safe repatriation of foreign nationals, Senator Evans said.

JD 194.3m collected in customs

AMMAN (Petra) — Customs revenues collected in Jordan in the first eight months of 1990 amounted to JD 194.3 million, registering an increase of JD 47.9 million or 32.8 per cent over the same period in 1989, according to a responsible official at the Customs Department. The official said customs revenues in August 1990 amounted to JD 27 million, compared to JD 22 million in the same month of last year.

Italy donates \$1.75m worth of rice

AMMAN (Petra) — The Italian government is contributing \$1.75 million worth of Italian rice to help Jordan cope with the evacuees' problem, a press release issued by the Italian Embassy said Friday. The press release said that Italy would provide Jordan with tinned beef worth \$875,000 through the Food and Agriculture Organisation to be used at the evacuees camps in Jordan.

PSD changes operators' number

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) have announced changes in the telephone numbers of their operators to 196 and said the old telephone number would be used along with the new number until the end of next month. The PSD sources said citizens in Amman could dial the number directly, while citizens outside the capital would have to dial zero before dialling it.

ARCS to review role in aiding evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive committee of the Arab Red Crescent Societies (ARCS) will hold a meeting in Amman on Sept. 13. President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura said the committee was going to discuss the role of the Arab Red Crescent Societies in aiding the evacuees flooding into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabel Amman.
- Art exhibition by Salam Kanaan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- Film entitled "Gregory's Girl" at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Summit on track

A HINT of where the superpower summit was heading, and what it was likely to produce, came from the U.S. Secretary of State on Saturday. It was then, for the first time since Aug. 2 perhaps, that a senior Bush administration official talked openly about the need for a political settlement to the Gulf crisis. A clearer indication of political rather than military solution had of course been sent by the Soviets earlier. The result, a dominance of the Baker-Soviet factor in the Helsinki summit, and a triumph for common sense over demagoguery and militarism.

Helsinki's is the sort of outcome that sensible and reasonable people would have hoped for, but which jingoists loathed and will probably continue to reject. Presidents Bush and Gorbachev did well to give peace a chance. That phrase was nearly forgotten or ignored by those who had been advising the U.S. president on the best course to take on the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait, including Mrs. Thatcher herself. We wonder whether the British prime minister lost any sleep last night thinking about an alternative outcome that would have had the Iraqi president defeated on the battlefield instead of having to deal with him politically.

The agreement on the "political settlement" clause between the two superpowers is naturally the highlight of the summit. For us here in Jordan at least, this is what Jordanian diplomacy has been trying to achieve from the outset. In fact, His Majesty King Hussein had no greater preoccupation or aim than to impress on the Americans the urgent need to go for a political solution when he went to see President Bush in mid-August. We have come a long way since then, and we cannot be but relieved that the Jordanian position has again been vindicated. The first glimmer of hope was of course seen in the light of the U.N. secretary-general's visit to Amman and his talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz earlier this month.

There are other important areas of agreement that have emerged from the summit as well. The resort to the U.N. — and not to unilateral action — in case negotiations with Baghdad prove difficult is one of these areas. Not sending Soviet troops to the region, and allowing for food and medicine supplies to Iraq are yet two other positive contributions that the summit has made to the cause of peace.

Surely the meeting between the leaders of the two great powers could have gone further to help the cause of peace in this region. It could have expended a greater effort towards linking the Gulf crisis to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands for instance. But one cannot have it all — at once.

The fact that the summit has started a process of pulling people back from the brink, and towards dialogue, remains the most important and proudest. The Western media, in its dispatches from Helsinki yesterday, may not have wanted to see it that way, but that is their prerogative. What matters to us is the substance and outcome of the talks. The former we have to wait for more details on. The latter, however, is positive and can be built on.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

PERHAPS the U.S.-Soviet summit in Helsinki is the most important so far in terms of international affairs, yet the Arab masses seem not to be looking forward to its outcome, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. One of two results will come out of the two leaders' meeting at the end of the summit: Either a big yes from Gorbachev in approval of Washington's actions in the Gulf or a big no, said the paper. Should Gorbachev take a courageous stand and oppose U.S. threats to the region and put an end to all previous accusations that he has been naive and obedient to Washington accepting its decisions and actions in different parts of the world; he would retain the friendship of the Arab masses and would prove to the world that Moscow is indeed a reliable friend, the paper noted. But, it said, should Gorbachev choose otherwise, and succumb to Washington's will and accept to be a second power, losing friends all over the world, the Arab masses would also be satisfied, since they would not mourn the loss of an unreliable friend. The Arabs should in any case rely on their own strength and their own resolve in dealing with their own issues, and they should have a free will which is not attached to the whims and the decisions of others, the paper stressed.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday warns Saudi media against pursuing its present hostile campaign on Jordan and says that those living in glass houses should not throw stones on others. Khaled Mahadeen says that the Saudi Arabian television and media have been indirectly accusing the Jordanian authorities of ill treating evacuees from Kuwait arriving here to the extent that some of them were starving. Saudi Arabia realises too well that this is not true and that the Jordanian authorities offer assistance to Indians, Pakistanis Arabs and other nationalities without any discrimination despite its meagre resources and limited means, says the writer. Jordan does not ban any Arab newspaper from entering the country because it is a free and democratic state which believes that the readers have the right to any information and to read any publication, says the writer. To the Saudi media we say that our home is not made of glass and we have a lot of stones to throw, yet our morals and manners do not allow us to do anything to harm others despite our ability to do a lot of harm and inflict fatal injuries on others, the writer warns. He says that should Jordan remain the target of insults and hostile campaigns it would be forced to reply effectively to deter others from continuing their crusade against it.

Al Dussour daily said that the eyes of the world are now turned towards Helsinki where the heads of the two major powers are holding a summit that could be decisive to the whole world. The eyes of the world are watching to see whether Moscow would succumb to the will of the American president who had called for this summit to achieve Washington's desires and goals, said the paper. But, it said, many of us believe that the interests of Moscow are quite different from those of Washington; and while the Soviets oppose the use of force in the Gulf, Washington is trying to convince the Soviet leadership of its views and even trying to involve the Soviets in the so-called multinational forces assembling in the Gulf.

Weekly Political Pulse

War in the Gulf will unify Arab masses

WHAT would determine the course of events in the Gulf crisis and the outcome of these events in the final analysis is the Arab World itself. There is no way the West or even the East can seal the results of the unfolding events there in isolation of the Arabs themselves. But as the Arab officialdom is divided right down the middle on how to view the Western military intervention, the community of nations would have to watch and see which side of the wavering Arab World will come ahead in the race to galvanise the Arab public opinion.

So far, the Arab masses appear to be dormant and have yet to come out in the open in clear support of one Arab school of thought or another, albeit it is a foregone conclusion.

What the greater majority of the silent Arab public opinion leans in favour of Iraq. Why the Arab masses have until now kept up their emotions and thoughts to themselves, must be haunting the Arab leaders across the political spectrum in the Arab World. With the exception of Jordan the West Bank, Tunisia, Algeria and Yemen, there has been little outward demonstration of Arab public opinion elsewhere in support of the Cairo-Riyadh axis or the Baghdad axis. This wait and see attitude is projected to fundamentally change the minute the first shot is fired. The minute war breaks out in the Gulf and engulfs the other parts of the Middle East, including the Arab-Israeli front, it would be impossible to maintain this illusory outward schism.

In the Arab World's public opinion, whether official or private. With Iraq fighting on two fronts, one Israeli and other American, the silent majority in the Arab World will have to break its silence and ambivalence and take side with the Arab axis fighting the Israelis. Arabs choosing to fight on the American side would find themselves in the untenable position of fighting on the Israeli side as well. If and when this happens, the Arab public opinion would rise like a giant tidal wave and sweep away everything in its way. This would explain in part Iraq's strategy of taking the war front to the footsteps of Israel the minute the U.S.-led war machine unleashes its military might against Iraq.

The stakes in such a scenario of a major conflagration across the entire Middle East theatre are obviously too grave to be taken lightly. The consequences of any such shooting war would be long lasting and, therefore, would be very hard if not impossible to measure before hand. Even the most optimistic war scenario in the Middle East would leave the entire region devastated beyond recognition. One wonders, therefore, if there is anything that would justify an outbreak of hostilities in the region. As the West has taught the Arabs to think in terms of cost effectiveness, it is pertinent to ask whether the medicine being prescribed by Washington is just too strong and even more fatal than the disease it attempts to cure.

Also relevant is the position of the Soviet Union in this messy situation. Surely, Moscow must be weary of losing the last few footholds that it still has in the Arab World. With Washington and its allies consolidating their grip on the Arab countries in the Middle East, the Soviet Union is left with no real and lasting allies in the Arab World unless it moves fast to reestablish itself as a power on which the other side of the Arab World, not directly associated with Washington's plans, can rely on. If Moscow fails to neutralise Washington in its ambitious plans in the Middle East, especially in its announced plan to regroup friendly Arab countries in a military alliance, it is going to find itself out in the cold with its strategic and security interests undermined for generations to come. Since Western Europe and Japan are on a collision course with the

U.S., even in the post East-West rivalry era over economic objectives, the Soviet Union must surely see itself as a competitor of the U.S. just like Japan and the EC countries, even after the collapse of their military rivalry. That is why the stakes for Moscow are greater and more profound than meets the eye. Nevertheless, much more important than the Soviet calculations or miscalculations is the collective Arab stance on the Gulf crisis and its ramifications. As stated earlier, the Arab public opinion is, by and large, still silent. The principal players in the Gulf situation must keep their eyes more than ever focused at all times on the mood of the Arab peoples who once aroused in force will burn the "green and the dry" in their path.

U.S. media again does what it does best: non-reporting and creating reality

By Dima Hamarneh

The writer is news editor at Jordan Television. She contributed the following article to the Jordan Times.

THEY came across the seas and the oceans to quench their unbearable thirst in the deserts of Arabia.

The world's most leading media giants were thirsty, thirsty for a piece of the action in the Gulf, for first rate sources and for live coverage on location.

The United States of America, however, is the conductor of the Gulf crisis media orchestra. It conducts and the orchestra performs. One or two players might skip a note but the conductor's baton takes care of any minor misplay. For in the end, the symphony is only one.

Let us need reminding, the U.S. media is that which has nauseated us with the return episodes of freedom of speech, freedom of press and above all that one on fairness, objectivity and accuracy.

The ones (episodes) we have yet to see are those on ratings and high circulation numbers, those are the truly valuable ones.

See, the returns are of very little value, they are worth nothing practically.

Let me be clear in saying that what brought this great conductor to this area was clearly not a journalistic thirst to present fairness in coverage, factual reporting or on location reality, but in fact an intemperance for high ratings and a lush in circulation digits.

In simple English it means the U.S. media knowingly came here only to maintain its fame, fortune and glory to maintain coverage that befits "the American way of life." Therefore, choose not to compare the U.S. media against its world counterparts but only to measure it up against its own assertions of being independent, neutral, balanced, informative, truthful and last but not least objective.

Allow me to be truthful in saying that this shall not be and in no way is a justification for Iraq's position or actions.

Let me begin with the U.S. media's assertion of independence. According to Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, independent means: "1 — free from the influence or control of others; 2 — self-governing; 3 — self-determined; 4 — self-reliant; 5 — not adhering to any political party; 6 — not connected with others; 7 — not depending on another for financial support."

In summary, how can we truly believe such a media is independent when those who pull the strings and do the hiring and firing in the business are biased to one thing or another? Influential political leaders, owners and controllers, and the big advertiser's with their mighty financial muscle.

One U.S. press critic observed: "It is truisim that in U.S. foreign reporting, the State Department often makes the story." Where another added, "and when not the State Department, the CIA or the Pentagon or the White House itself."

Second on the list is neutral, where in the same dictionary it means, "1 — supporting neither side in quarrel or war 2 — of neither extreme in type, kind,

etc., indifferent."

We are presumed to fathom such an assertion. But how should we do that and why should we?

The U.S. media began a vast and thorough attack campaign on Iraq and President Saddam Hussein long before this present crisis. Let us not go too far back. In Newsweek magazine's special report on April 9, Saddam was already labelled by attribution as "a blood thirsty tyrant — the butcher of Baghdad"; and that in the first paragraph, the lead of the massive report.

The U.S. media's (Newsweek is a perfect reflection of the U.S. media if not an exact replica) position on Iraq was obvious earlier, so why should it shift tactics now?

Let us be fair and give it a chance and follow Newsweek's coverage of Iraq.

On Aug. 6 (already four days into the crisis), Newsweek titled its first world affairs story (in Iraq) "playing the bully again." Let me explain, however, that Newsweek was yet not covering the present Gulf crisis but Saddam Hussein's request for OPEC to raise the prices of crude oil.

In the Aug. 13 edition, Newsweek's front cover story was titled: "Baghdad's bully" and other headlines on the front cover read "Can he be stopped?" and "The war of the future."

Other than being closer to infinity than being neutral, the objective is to get the readers panic.

Such words aim only at provoking the readers by understanding from them that the Iraqi president is moving and intends to keep on moving, giving rise to the created conclusion that he must be stopped. These are assumptions drawn up by the writers who are neither close to the Iraqi president, nor are they mind readers to know his intentions.

It is a well orchestrated method, and by no margin a neutral one, to justify and legitimise the massive buildup of U.S. forces in the Gulf.

And to move on, in the Aug. 20 edition, Newsweek titled one of its special report stories as "the making of a monster," referring to the Iraqi president.

The U.S. media's assertion number three is that of balanced reporting. Whereby balance, in accordance with the rules of good journalism, is done by equally allowing competing sources to give both sides of a dispute, once again we see the U.S. media's total lack of balance when covering the Third World, and in this specific case, the Middle East.

Even when statements from both sides are presented, they are often not accorded equal space, positioning and framing. Let us not forget the fact that both sides to a story may not be all sides.

In reality, the media counter-balances its reporting by false balancing.

When Washington said Iraqi troops were moving near the Saudi border, for example, CBC, NBC, ABC, CNN, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Time and Newsweek, all mentioned it, repeated it and engraved it well in all our minds. Not once however, did any of these "information" seekers and providers ask how Washington knew that Iraq was massing troops, and what was its proof.

Iraq, however, denied Washington's claims. When covering that item, a person didn't dare blink while watching, or skip a line while reading, lest this piece of information be unburied of.

The question that arises here is that, if Washington knew of what it claimed as Iraqi troops moving towards the Saudi border, how did Aug. 2 totally happen without its little intelligence department "hearing" about it.

Very few journalists pried into that and when they did, they were told "the CIA was on vacation." Now is that a credible or incredible piece of news? What ever it was, it was never approached again.

Another form of false balancing is the double standard interview.

Dan Rather of CBC tried to create an impression of evenhandedness by interviewing the other side of the story himself, the Iraqi president.

In which book of journalism, I wonder, does it say that an interviewer may give his or her own opinion or judgment in other than an editorial or opinion piece?

During the interview, Dan Rather leaked, in the form of a question, to his outstanding number of viewers and the Iraqi president how he himself felt about Saddam Hussein's televised visit with the foreigners. Rather's feelings about it were not in any way positive. Automatically CBS's loyal audience would only see fit to agree with Rather.

This somewhat antagonistic interview cues the audience to think and believe that there is something highly questionable about the interviewee, whereas a friendly interview (with an interviewee opposed to Iraq) sends a cue to the audience that the respondent is to be trusted and believed.

Let's go back in time and see how one U.S. media critic described the 1984 press coverage of the Lebanon crisis. "The press incessantly referred to the 'Soviet-made' anti-aircraft missiles and other arms possessed by the Syrian and Lebanese. But at no time were the Israeli arms described as 'U.S.-made' (which they were). The audience was continuously left with the impression that the Soviets were somehow the instigators in what actually was an Israeli invasion of Lebanon."

For the U.S. media, balancing would be too high of a price to pay. Jobs might be lost, competitors may get ahead, someone might get upset... so, its just too much to bother with.

That is why any interview opposing Washington's attitude is stashed in the end of a newscast, a newspaper or magazine, or is not given equal time, or never used at all (in most cases). When however, such opposing (to Washington) items have prominent coverage they are abused, taken out of context, and solely exist to justify the audience's need to adhere to Washington's views.

The U.S. media finds it safer, cheaper and less exhausting (physically and mentally) to tell the audience what to think about a story rather than give the audience a chance to think about it all by itself.

In the end, not balancing news, makes Washington happy, the media content and puts the audience in awe.

U.S. media assertion number four is that of it being informative. The catch to this assertion is that informative need does not mean truthful information but distorted information.

I shall go back into Newsweek's coverage of the Gulf crisis. In one of the special report stories one writer put an effort to describe to his readers "why many Arabs see Saddam as their champion."

Beginning his lead he writes: "A common theme runs through 'A Thousand and One Nights,' a favourite book in Baghdad. The beggar becomes a king, the king a beggar, and thieves are heroes of the slums."

Let's pretend for a minute the writer truly knows about the contents of the book, does the theme he describes not bring to mind a familiar one, known to the West as Robin Hood? Why does this one somehow sound scary and cruel, while Robin Hood is a bed time story for children in the West?

This is but a minor example of misinformation put forth by the U.S. media. To present more, would need a volume of books... what is more destructive however, is false information which brings us to assertion number five: Truthfulness.

Telling the truth is a basic lesson we all learn in life. I chose not only to inform you how the U.S. media manage to recklessly disregard the truth but how it also manage at some points, to fabricate what it claims as the truth.

Let us look back at the media's coverage of the massive U.S. buildup in the Gulf. CNN, CBS, ABC and NBC, covered (if not with live reports) in curious detail how the massive U.S. troops were deployed in the Gulf rather than curiously asking what exactly are they doing there. What descriptive vocabulary the TV media missed, however, was given major coverage by the print media.

Could what one U.S. commander called "the largest military operation since World War II" be exclusively for defensive purposes? And defensive against what?

It soon became quite difficult for the media to cover "defensive against what." On Aug. 8, President George Bush said that U.S. military involvement was to protect Saudi Arabia and other Gulf allies. On Aug. 15 President Bush changed his mind and said that the forces are being deployed not only to defend Saudi Arabia, but to get Iraq out of Kuwait and return legitimacy there.

The media, however, didn't let Washington down. It was quick in picking up from where President Bush left off. All one saw from then on was a full scale media supportive of U.S. military presence.

If ever the word defensive was tied with American oil interests in the region by U.S. journalists, it was referred to as protection from the so-called aggression. This was never questioned as possible aggression for protection.

Why should U.S. claims of some Iraqi troops moving towards the Saudi border be credible, while questioning a massive U.S. buildup in the Gulf for "defensive" purposes be unwise and unapproachable.

One tends to forget that to have a defender, there must be an offender. Washington automatically took the role of a defender before the media helped it create what it called an offender. What Washington, and only Washington, says, the media, broadcast and print but never question. This would usually be called reckless disregard of the truth.

What truth will the North American media provide its public with, if somebody does fire the first shot. Will one then come away with the same impression left by the U.S. media coverage of Vietnam? How will the media justify another needless bloodbath then? It would be a bloodbath if glorified, if not fully responsible for.

Rather than help ease anxiety over the firing of the first shot, the U.S. media has escalated matters, by provoking emotions, and dwelling on negativity, bringing everything to a boil.

Any chance available to calm things down was discarded with as mentioned as a "by the way item" or condemned or belittled.

The Iraqi president's continuous statements on a chance for peace, a chance for talks, were not repeated enough, and when and if mentioned, they were condemned, by the U.S. and Britain, or made to look like cowardly offers.

The world's largest diplomatic efforts to defuse the situation led by His Majesty King Hussein, have been belittled. Any mention of this item came followed by, or attributed to, some sort of claimed pressure on Jordan. Phrases like "Tiny little Jordan is squeezed," "Jordan a close ally of Iraq," "Jordan is pressured by Iraq," and so on were used to describe Jordan's sincere quest for peace. Why couldn't tiny little Jordan be presented as having the largest and most sensible diplomatic efforts in the world? Why shouldn't the world be advised, as it has been advised otherwise, to follow Jordan's footsteps away from the battlefield, rather than to fight?

Now, for the fabrication of what the U.S. media calls the truth. Quoting one writer's documented factual findings: "at least twenty five news organizations have served the CIA including The Washington Post, the New York Times, CBS, ABC, NBC, Time, Newsweek, The Associated Press, United Press International, U.S. News and World Report, and The Wall Street Journal."

"CIA operatives have planted stories of Soviet nuclear tests that never took place and fabricated 'diaries' and 'confessions' of defectors from socialist countries. Stories about Cuban soldiers killing babies and raping women in Angola, concocted by the CIA, were planted abroad, then picked up by AP and UPI strings for 'blowback' runs in the U.S. In the early 1950s a news story claiming that China was sending troops to Vietnam to help insurgents fight against the French proved to be a CIA fabrication."

There are many more examples and there will be many more. Could the media knowingly (in most cases) serving the CIA decide to stop now

while covering the Gulf crisis? This particular situation might actually have made it more creative.

An intermediate stage for the media between being truthful and being objective is being literary. This is when journalists drift off track and think they are artists and writers.

Reporters are supposed to report facts, news, without making a literary piece out of it. This process of propaganda is called framing. By using emphasis, nuance and innuendo, communicators can create the impression they desire.

As indicated previously, the labels used by Newsweek on the Iraqi president are a prime example. Other labels by the various media such "Hitler, loose cannon, loose lion" and many others have been also used.

Not only does the usage of such creative terminology stretches these obviously elastic limits between truthfulness and objectivity beyond capacity but makes a good argument for libel suits as well.

Such usage of words by U.S. journalists would be considered by U.S. courts as causing injury to reputation and being defamatory to character, resulting in costly libel suits. Don't foreign coverage libel suits hold up in U.S. courts? Or is it only the U.S. reputation that counts and let the rest of the world go to hell?

Last but not least is the final assertion of objectivity.

What the U.S. media mean by objectivity?

In 1983, Time magazine headlined its cover story: "Rescue in Grenada," while in 1990 The Washington Post headlined its story "Iraqi force invades Kuwait."

How is it that Washington somehow manages to be constantly ingeniously described by its media as the rescuer, the saviour in the world while others are described as invaders?

When Washington invaded "tiny little" Panama, it was displayed by its media as another kind of "good deed" operation to bring Antonio Noriega to trial on drug charges in the U.S.

A person could go on and on with endless examples of how objectivity in the U.S. media shifts every time Washington blows the whistle.

One media critic wrote "The media know how to be as deaf, dumb, and blind as the government wants it to be. Members of the U.S. press knew the U.S. was flying U2 planes over Soviet territory, they knew Washington planned to invade Cuba. They knew about, other than the official, versions of Vietnam, they knew the U.S. was engaged in a massive, prolonged saturation bombing of Cambodia, they knew the U.S. was leading a helping hand in the slaughter of Indonesians, Guatemalans and Salvadorans." The bottom line is: U.S. media objectivity is parallel to Washington's objectives.

For nearly two decades, every evening the father of American newscasters, Walter Cronkite would end his CBS television news show with the statement "And that's the way it is." On the eve of his retirement in 1980, Cronkite admitted that it was not the way it is: "My lips have been kind of buttoned for almost twenty years..."

(Continued from page 1)

it when Mrs. Thatcher put it to you. I may be somewhat presumptuous.

Q: In other words, we pressed this point several times, and as you say she did not say that our purpose was to overthrow Saddam Hussein. She stopped short of that. You must have met him on some occasions. You talk about a political solution. What sort of a man is he? Is he another Hitler or another Saladin? I mean is he the sort of man who you could trust?

A: I would like to say that the symbolism of the name of a head of state with Hitler or the word Arab with terrorists or the word Muslim with fundamentalists, is the type of stereotype that the media unfortunately live by. The point here is not whether we talk of this leader of the Arab World or that leader of the Western World. We are looking at the problems from within the region and Mrs. Thatcher is looking at the problem from outside the region inward.

Q: But the problem is the essence of negotiation. Are you dealing with someone you can trust? Is Saddam Hussein a man you trust?

A: I think that the purposes of this potential movement of political settlement, and God knows we hope that possibility still exists. Otherwise we might not be having this interview and sit back and enjoy what would be a ghastly war if I may put it so cynically. The point is very clear that if the possibility of a political settlement exists, then the message that has been sent from Baghdad openly and privately to many governments should not continue to be ignored. Trust is a two-way street, and if I was sitting in Baghdad today and was asked to withdraw from Kuwait, I would have the right to ask what guarantees of further aggression would I have, what guarantees of non-aggression by the massive international build-up south of Kuwait would I have in that event?

A: I think that if the accuracy in those editorials had started with the first week when there was a virtual blackout on Jordan's position. That is to say, when His Majesty was flying within the first 72 hours for an Arab solution, as it was then called, of the crisis, that is to say, a mini summit in Jeddah. The commitment by Iraqis to withdraw, even the possibility of the participation at the time, that is within the 72 hours of the Iraqi action in Kuwait, everything was negotiable. However, that Arab solution was easily stymied, blocked by the

condemnation wrongly by the countries of the Arab League meeting in Cairo and then followed by Security Council condemnation. There was no possibility to say to the Iraqis we can pursue a political solution because already the war machine has been so well accelerated in its efforts to position itself on the ground in Saudi Arabia.

Q: Really the hopes for an Arab solution now are dead, aren't they?

A: The Arab content of an international solution is there clearly in black and white in Article Four of Security Council Resolution 660. Mrs. Thatcher (and) the world community adhere to these principles as indeed does my country. But I would like to make it very clear indeed that what came out from your interview with Mrs. Thatcher and indeed our discussions subsequently is that there is a very unclear patch of territory ahead of us and that is if it is international position to secure withdrawal, what next?

Is the intention in this instance to forbid Iraq the fruits of its action or is it to punish Iraq, or is it a personalised attack against the leadership of Iraq, and that is what we find rather some difficulty, I would say, in understanding. And I think that you David find some difficulty in understanding.

You see every decade has produced a crisis. President Nasser in the 1950s, Khomeini in the 1970s, Colonel Qadhafi and the Gulf of Sirte, and now the question of Iraq. Are we to believe in this region that we are simply incapable of shouldering regional responsibilities or security? Can there be not be a conflict — free zone in the Gulf? Without the pretorian guard there to guard the oil for the world as it appears to us today?

Q: Pardon me if we have negotiations with Saddam Hussein, and if he said I will withdraw from Kuwait, and I will not go back. Well, he told President Mubarak of Egypt that he was not going to invade in the first place. How can you trust him? I don't understand. Could you explain that?

A: Well, I would like to refer to what has been described in the media as the first lie, and that is the statement that Iraq would not attack Kuwait. We have a problem of idiom and of language here, I believe David and I believe that the Iraqi position could well have been: We will not resort to force until we have exhausted negotiations.

I don't want to go into history but this issue had been in the making for several months if not

years. And while we have the greatest respect for our Arab brethren, and indeed for our brethren in the Gulf, I think it is very clear with the Iranian foreign minister playing the Iranian card and visiting Kuwait in July, among other things, the position of Iraq is restated in many times that the crisis is tantamount to war.

The presence of a very strong army and a weakened economy... the recipe of explosion was there. So to base all this delusion in Saddam Hussein on one reported communication between himself and another Arab leader, I think is as much history as the criticism levelled at us for having attempted to work out an Arab solution in those few days at the beginning of the crisis. No-one is interested basically in what was reported that Saddam Hussein had said.

Everyone was terribly interested in what he did, what opening it gave to enter militarily into the Gulf and internationalise, what is obviously all the sources of oil sale of weapons to military industry are very important international issues.

Q: How can negotiations succeed, leaving aside that credibility gap? How is there any possibility that Saddam Hussein would withdraw from Kuwait without demanding the sort of face-saving concessions that we now know that the international community could never give without making a nonsense of international law?

A: Well I think that to go back to credibility I do think credibility is

Jordan's stand principled

important. I just want to ask that during the years of the cold war how much trust did the Western countries have in their opposite numbers in the East? As I said, it is not a question of egos or charming one another, but it is a question of arriving at a solution on the ground and there I would like to say very clearly that the achievement of 598, that is the Iranian-Iraqi peace agreement in the making, is relegated by some as having been a sell-out to the Iraqis. However, in this region it is seen by others as a shoring up of a long-standing confrontation between two Muslim countries. It is rather cynically exploited by many in the world that war that cost over a trillion dollars and resulted in the death and maiming of a million people.

We feel effectively that this gesture would certainly be directed to an Arab country closer to Saddam Hussein as an Arab than possibly could have been in the Iranian case. However, one thing is very clear. I would like to make it a point again that if withdrawal is envisaged what guarantees of non-aggression are there? What guarantees that this massive troop build-up, which effectively knows no time limits as we have heard in the earlier interview, (that) it does not mean a presence, particularly Western presence in the southern Gulf? Does that mean we are going to find out of Helsinki a corresponding improvement in Soviet rela-

tions with the northern Gulf that is to say Iraq and Iran. Are lines to be drawn in the Middle East and in the Gulf in particular? Are we to see a new Gulf war?

What face saving arrangements, I would say very clearly that it is the role of the quiet undramatic diplomacy. At the

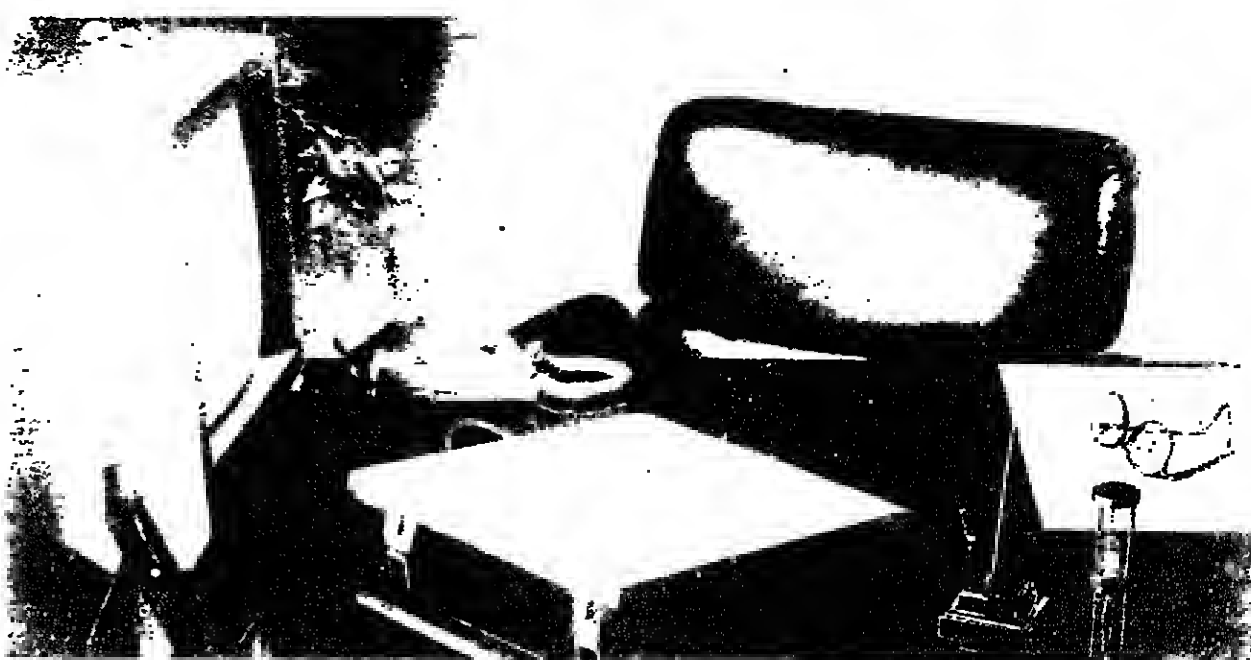
moment everything is upfront and everything is war-oriented. Q: When you say undramatic diplomacy, therefore when you read for instance that Saddam Hussein said this week called for a holy war against the Americans for defiling the sacred places of Saudi Arabia, he called for the overthrow of King Fahd and President Mubarak as traitors, corrupt and traitors, you must

read that sort of stuff that "is rubbish? A: Well, all of this rhetoric. All this adjectival characterisation, all this personalisation whether Hitler, or repulsive filth as you have reported Mrs. Thatcher as saying although she did not recognise this statement as directed towards the president of Iraq or the personalised attack on leaders in this part of the world that is

deeply hurtful to us. Because, after all it is we who are being made a mockery in terms of our much sought for goal of Arab unity.

It is for us to mend our wounds and this is why I would like to keep this particular aspect within an Arab context. You may call that rubbish, but we are the people who have to live this legacy and hang on this responsibility to future generations.

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Superpowers agree

(Continued from page 1)

The two leaders said any decision on food shipments to Iraq should be made by the U.N. sanctions committee and imports should be strictly monitored to ensure food reached only the needy — "with special priority given to meeting the needs of children."

Bush noted this should not be interpreted as meaning there should now be "wholesale food shipments to Iraq." Several countries including India and China have urged that food and medicine be excluded from the sanctions.

Asked about Soviet military advisers in Iraq, Gorbachev said they were leaving and were down to 150 from 196. Bush said their presence was not a major irritant although he was happy they were leaving.

Bush said he was determined to maintain the massive U.S. troop deployment in the Gulf until its security was assured and the U.N. resolutions had been respected. But he said he had assured the Soviet leader that U.S. troops would not remain in the region "a day longer than is required."

"The sooner we get them out

of there the better," he added.

He said he did not ask Gorbachev to send troops to Saudi Arabia but "if the Soviets decided to do that at the invitation of the Saudis, that would be fine with us."

Asked why the superpowers were not pursuing U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli dispute, Bush said the United States had been trying zealously to implement them for many years.

The fact that it had failed did not mean the world should "sit idly by in the face of naked aggression against Kuwait," Bush said, contending that the issues were not linked.

Gorbachev, however, said there was linkage and that ultimately the Arab-Israeli problem must be addressed. Bush expressed satisfaction at Moscow's solidarity over the Gulf crisis. He held out the prospect of economic rewards but noted Washington had budget problems of its own.

Gorbachev rejected the notion and said "Moscow wasn't cooperating on the Kuwait crisis in order to get economic aid." It would be very superficial to judge that the Soviet Union could be bought for dollars," he said.

Text of statement

(Continued from page 1)

Nothing short of the complete implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions is acceptable. Nothing short of a return to the pre-Aug. 2 status of Kuwait can end Iraq's isolation.

We call upon the entire world community to adhere to the sanctions mandated by the United Nations, and we pledge to work, individually and in concert, to insure full compliance with the sanctions. At the same time, the United States and the Soviet Union recognise that U.N. Security Council Resolution 661 permits, in humanitarian circumstances, the importation into Iraq and Kuwait of food. The sanctions committee will make recommendations to the Security Council on what would constitute humanitarian circumstances. The United States and the Soviet Union further agree that any such imports must be strictly monitored by the appropriate international agencies to ensure that food reaches only those for whom it is intended, with special priority being given to meeting the needs of children.

Our preference is to resolve the crisis peacefully, and we will be united against Iraq's aggression as long as the crisis exists. However, we are determined to see this aggression end, and if the current steps fail to end it, we are prepared to consider additional ones consistent with the U.N. Charter. We must demonstrate beyond any doubt that aggression cannot and will not pay.

As soon as the objectives mandated by the U.N. Security Council resolutions mentioned above have been achieved, and we have demonstrated that aggression does not pay, the presidents direct their foreign ministers to work with countries in the region and outside it to develop regional security structures and measures to promote peace and stability. It is essential to work actively to resolve all remaining conflicts in the Middle East and Persian Gulf. Both sides will continue to consult each other and initiate measures to pursue these broader objectives at the proper time.

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Greek government vows deep budget cuts, attack on tax evasion

ATHENS (R) — Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis said Saturday he would make deep cuts in state spending in his 1991 budget and launch an all-out fight against rampant tax evasion.

In a scathing appraisal of the economy, he said in a speech at a trade fair in the northern city of Salonika: "We are on our knees and we will stay in this position... for many years to come."

He blamed the poor state of the economy on deficits run up by Socialist governments from 1981 to 1989, and said 60 per cent of all tax revenue went to servicing \$55 billion in debts.

Mitsotakis, who formed the first Conservative government since 1981 after winning April elections, has raised taxes and public utility costs dramatically

but has done little about promised spending cuts.

"Today, more than ever, the public sector must be shrunk and put in order," he said. "For this reason the priority for next year's budget is a substantial cut of public deficits." The 1991 budget is due in November.

International organisations and European Community partners have said spending cuts were essential to pull back the country from the brink of bankruptcy. The budget deficit was about \$12.5 billion in 1989, or 18 per cent of the country's annual gross domestic product (GDP).

Mitsotakis also vowed to intensify the fight against rampant tax evasion and the thriving black economy, which is estimated at 30 to 40 per cent of the annual

\$55 billion GDP, and indicated that his government would throw its weight behind limiting wage rises during negotiations early next year.

He said the Gulf crisis was adding \$1 billion to Greece's annual oil bill, which was being passed on to consumers "since the state is in no position to absorb the cost."

"I feel the stress and the agony of economically weaker citizens," he said, but the increases could not be avoided.

Inflation would be raised by up to 2.5 percentage points because of oil prices, or as high as 23 per cent annually at the end of 1990 compared to earlier forecasts of some 20 per cent. Inflation was just under 14 per cent for 1989.

Australia hikes petrol prices again

SYDNEY (R) — Australian petrol prices rose another two cents a litre Sunday because of the Gulf crisis, the second official sanctioned increase in 12 days following the expiry of a three-week price freeze.

Petrol prices are now around 54 per cent higher than in September 1989, the Price Surveillance Authority said.

Oil companies would be allowed to increase their wholesale petrol prices by two cents a litre from Sunday and would probably be permitted another 1.5 cent rise next week, authority chairman Allan Fels said Saturday night.

Oil companies, which estimate they lost around 100 million dollars (\$80 million) because of the price freeze imposed by Treasurer Paul Keating after Iraq invaded Kuwait, are expected to increase retail prices the full amount.

Before the latest rise, petrol prices were around 74.9 cents (60 U.S. cents) a litre in Sydney, Australia's most expensive city, after a five cent increase on Aug. 29.

Petrol prices have risen around 12 cents a litre (9.5 U.S. cents) since the Gulf crisis began.

"The oil companies keep knocking at our door for an extra seven cents but we tell them to go to hell," Fels told reporters.

"We are not letting oil companies put up prices by the full extent of their cost increases — we want to stage the increase and give some relief to motorists," he added.

Crude oil prices have soared since Aug. 2 when Iraq invaded Kuwait and now stand at more than \$30 a barrel. After imposing the freeze Aug. 9, Keating asked the authority to report whether petrol price rises were justified.

Prospects to ease plight of poor states seen improving

PARIS (R) — Despite the Gulf crisis oil shock, prospects for easing the plight of the world's poorest countries are improving, delegates at the second United Nations conference on the least developed countries (LDCs) said.

Halfway through the two-week conference, delegates have only tackled the least contentious issues and will this week start discussing the thorny problems of debt relief and aid levels.

Members said some rich countries were expected to argue that the conference was not the right forum to discuss debt relief.

The United States, which fell far short of the aid target of 0.15 per cent of the developed countries' gross national product (GNP) set at the first LDCs conference in 1981, was unlikely to agree to a higher level.

But delegates from rich and poor countries agreed there were hopes of avoiding another disastrous decade for poor nations.

"Everything went wrong in the 1980s," a Western delegate said. Most industrialised countries, including some of the biggest donors, failed to reach the aid target.

Squeezed between falling commodity export prices, a growing foreign debt and a population boom, the 420 million people living in the 41 least developed countries, most of them African, sank further into misery.

The Gulf crisis was the latest

blow to the poor countries which are unable to react quickly to upheavals in world economy.

"The rise in oil prices shattered all our provisions. No one knows how long it will last," said Abdul Hasnat Mohiuddin, the representative from Bangladesh.

He said the crisis had also lessened the impact of the conference. "The attention of industrialised countries is focused elsewhere. They are concerned with security."

Another shock was Saudi Arabia's blunt warning that poor nations had to brace for a substantial drop in Arab aid.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to pay billions of dollars towards the cost of the U.S. military deployment in the Gulf and the Iraqi takeover has effectively ended

Iraqis face jail sentence for price violations

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi traders who charge more than the prices set by the state will face 15 years in prison and the loss of all their assets, the government said Sunday.

The decision, published in the state-run newspaper Al Qadisiyah, was issued by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council to prevent black market dealing during the blockade of Iraq.

Under the decision, covering both private and public sectors, any attempt by government officials to manipulate prices will be considered a crime.

In an effort to offset the blockade, the ruling council gave permission for all Iraqis to plant wheat, corn and rice on government-owned land.

It also permitted the use of public water from rivers, streams and wells for irrigation.

Higher oil prices to ease Algeria's economic plight

ALGIERS (R) — Higher world oil prices arising from the Gulf crisis promise to ease Algeria's economic plight six months before crucial parliamentary elections.

Bankers and diplomats say current oil prices of around \$25 a barrel, 60 per cent higher than three months ago, would net Algeria an extra \$1 billion in oil and gas revenues this year.

This should help service a \$24 billion foreign debt and stimulate the economy by financing the import of badly needed industrial and agricultural inputs.

"If oil prices stay at \$25 a barrel Algeria's debt problem will ease considerably," a senior banker told Reuters. "But we will continue our policy of refinancing the debt, reorganising the economy and reviving growth."

Algeria's economy plunged into crisis in the mid-1980s when falling world oil prices halved its income.

Debt service eats up most hard currency revenue, crippling the country's ability to import spare parts and materials to keep factories and farms running. Officials put unemployment at 25 per cent.

Economic crisis was the main factor behind 1988 youth riots that pushed the country towards multi-party democracy and allowed the Islamic fundamentalist movement to triumph in local elections last June.

The Islamic Salvation Front is now front runner in the first free parliamentary elections set for next year after 28 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN).

The economy ministry had estimated a debt service this year at \$7.4 billion out of total export earnings of \$10.2 billion, based on an oil price of \$18 a barrel.

A barrel of oil has so far this year averaged about \$18, but is likely to remain well above that through December because of fears of supply disruption from the Gulf.

The banker said Algeria would go ahead with plans to refinance between \$1 billion and \$2 billion

of short-term debt through an innovative financing package with foreign banks partly guaranteed by zero-coupon bonds.

Algeria has consistently refused a formal rescheduling, fearing damage to its international credit standing. It has instead opted for refinancing the debt, 70 per cent of which matures between now and 1993.

Talks are under way with a consortium of French and U.S. banks on a refinancing package that won French government backing during a July visit to Paris by Economy Minister Ghazi Hedoudi. He is due to visit the United States later this month.

The package would help close a projected financing gap of \$1.3 billion this year — the difference between total financing needs and existing credits — and free most of the oil price windfall for imports and investment.

The banker said the government would resist the temptation to use the extra cash to import consumer goods in a bid to improve election prospects.

Diplomats said disenchantment with the ruling FLN was so deep-rooted even a consumer goods buying spree was unlikely to affect significantly its prospects at the polls.

But improved cash flow would bolster lender confidence and make it easier to secure new loans, the banker said.

The government continues to seek foreign investment, central to economic recovery plans, through new incentives introduced last March that include the possibility of 100 per cent foreign ownership.

Foreign investors have been slow to respond because of social unrest and political uncertainties tied to next year's elections.

The government is also pressing ahead with moves to liberalise the bureaucratic, state-dominated economy. A new supplementary finance law, for example, ends a state monopoly on foreign trade and allows licensed agencies to import and resell goods.

EC finance officials differ on monetary union

ROME (AP) — Efforts to achieve economic and monetary union within the European Community (EC) — hit a snag Saturday with disagreements among the 12 member states over when and how union should be accomplished.

The finance ministers estimated that if crude oil prices remain at \$30 a barrel, the EC's economic growth could drop to 2.1 per cent from a forecast rate of 3.1 per cent.

At a one-day session, the EC finance ministers reached no accord on a timetable for moving toward a single currency and central bank patterned after the U.S. Federal Reserve.

They met with only three months before the final negotiations on monetary union are to take place. The ministers agreed to meet again here in November.

Long lines for bread appear in Soviet cities

MOSCOW (AP) — Shortages of bread have spread from Moscow to other cities, including Leningrad and Archangel, and soldiers have been mobilised to help bakers in the capital, Soviet media reported Saturday.

"There is a terrible shortage of flour and yeast," the head of Leningrad's central baking plants told the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

Suppliers are letting us down. And they in turn, as far as I understand, don't have enough grain. We've had to tap even our normally inviolable reserves," said the bakery chief, identified only as V. Ivanov.

Long lines for bread appeared in Moscow during the past week for the first time since the early 1960s, Soviet officials blamed hoarding, antiquated equipment and a sudden rise in demand as residents returned from their traditional August vacations.

Bahrain shelves projects

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain has scrapped plans to build a new power and water desalination plant and delayed decisions on two other big projects, a senior official said Sunday.

Electricity director Abdullah Juma said a planned 190-million dinar (\$500 million) water and electricity project has been cancelled.

He told Reuters the decision was taken before the Gulf crisis. Bahrain, hard hit by the Gulf crisis, depends heavily on desalination plants to overcome a shortage of underground water.

Juma said a plan to expand the 700-megawatt Rifaa power station had been suspended and the government was studying alternatives.

Building of a second causeway linking Bahrain's two biggest islands, Muharraq and Manama, had been delayed.

World faces wheat surplus, flat prices

WASHINGTON (R) — Ideal growing weather in the world's major producing countries and bumper harvests are adding to the global wheat surplus, ensuring flat prices for some time, analysts say.

"Weather has been very good for wheat. The record production that is expected to exceed consumption will increase global stocks of wheat," said Edwin Young, a U.S. agriculture department grain analyst.

"The wheat trade and prices

are expected to remain relatively flat in the near term," he added.

The department forecasts that world wheat production in the 1990/91 season will be a record 584 million tonnes, up sharply from the 537 million estimated for 1989/90 and 501 million tonnes in 1988/89.

"We've got a lot of grain around the world. Until something changes that, there will continue to be a larger supply of wheat in a smaller world market," said Glenn Sampson of

U.S. Wheat Associates Inc, a trade group that promotes American grain sales.

Countries with bumper harvests, which are flooding the market with wheat, include the leading producers — the United States, Canada and Australia, where ideal weather has boosted production.

Reduced demand in recent months from major importers China and the Soviet Union, which are offered subsidised U.S. wheat under the export enhance-

ment programme, has also worsened the wheat situation, analysts said.

"Basically, major importers like the Soviet Union and China are trying to get a handle on their own crop production as well as looking out for lower prices before they enter the market to buy," an agricultural department official said.

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10 killed in Soweto; police to probe white role in violence

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Street clashes at a squatter camp in the Soweto black township killed at least 10 people, and police fired tear gas and rubber bullets Sunday when crowds threw rocks and firebombs at their vehicles.

Police also confirmed they would investigate allegations that white men have been involved in recent attacks on blacks.

The independent South African Press Association (SAPA) reported a crowd of about 100 people attacked the Tadi shack camp in Soweto Saturday night, assaulting occupants and smashing dwellings.

Police said Sunday that 10 bodies had been recovered in the area, which a spokesman described as "tense."

SAPA reported crowds threw rocks and firebombs at police vehicles. Police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets, the news agency said.

Six other deaths were reported Sunday in the black townships around Johannesburg, including four men found stabbed in a van at a squatter camp near Vos-

loorus, south of the city.

Black factional fighting in Johannesburg-area townships has killed almost 600 people since erupting on Aug. 12. The violence has eased in the past week after a period when dozens of blacks were killed daily.

But random attacks on blacks have occurred in recent days. Witnesses have reported occupants of a van shot and stabbed people in different townships. Gunmen also opened fire on a crowded train platform in Johannesburg, killing six blacks.

Witnesses also have said white men were among a group of blacks that attacked a migrant workers hostel in Sebokeng township last week. The attack led to a confrontation outside the hostel in which soldiers opened fire on a crowd of blacks, killing 11.

Masked white men reportedly have been seen among crowds of blacks at other violent incidents.

African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu said the van attacks and reports of whites participating in assaults on blacks indicated a pattern of violence against blacks.

Sisulu said the purpose might be to instigate the black-faction fighting, which has mostly pitted Zulus loyal to the conservative Inkatha Movement against Xhosa and other black followers of the ANC.

Police confirmed Saturday they would investigate the allegations by Sisulu and witnesses. A police spokesman told the government-operated South African Broadcasting Co. that witnesses would be interviewed.

Black leaders and others have called for independent investigations of recent violence, including the Sebokeng shooting.

A recent judicial inquiry on a police shooting in Sebokeng last March concluded police opened fire needlessly on black protesters, killing at least five and

wounding more than 150.

Meanwhile, the right-wing Conservative Party has asked for an urgent meeting with government leaders about allegations that a right-wing activist was tortured while in police detention.

Police have been accused for years of torturing blacks detained under the Internal Security Act, which permits indefinite detention and interrogation of people suspected of violating security laws.

The ANC and Inkatha blame each other for the faction fighting. The ANC also says police have sided with Inkatha, further fuelling the violence.

Government and police leaders have said individual police may have acted improperly, but the force as a whole has remained impartial.

The ANC and Inkatha both oppose apartheid, but differ over tactics and plans for a future South Africa.

The two sides have been fighting for supremacy since 1986 in the eastern province of Natal, resulting in some 5,000 deaths.

Gorbachev in reform dilemma as pressure mounts on government

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev faces fresh pressure this week to sack his prime minister and speed up economic reform.

The autumn session of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) opens Monday amid worsening shortages of basic consumer goods and a crescendo of calls for Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov to resign.

Long queues for bread and tobacco have spawned deepening frustration at the government's failure to improve the lot of the Soviet people. Powerful voices blame the government and have no faith in its latest proposals to reform the economy.

Boris Yeltsin, the popular president of the Russian Federation, has been the most vocal critic. He says Gorbachev has no choice but to sack Ryzhkov and adopt radical reforms to introduce a market-based system before the economy collapses.

The radical mayors of Moscow and Leningrad, Gavril Popov and Anatoly Sobchak, have also called for Ryzhkov to step down. "Not one issue which we have presented to the union government has been positively resolved," Sobchak told TASS news agency.

Crowds listening to street orators over the weekend at the entrance to Moscow's Gorky Park applauded the same message.

The main gripe was over empty shelves and long queues, testimony to the failure of five years of efforts by the Ryzhkov government to revive the flagging Soviet economy.

As industrial output slows and individual Soviet republics demand greater political and economic autonomy, the need for radical reforms has never been more pressing. But rival politicians and economists remain divided.

Ivan Silayev, prime minister of the Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic, said Saturday that Gorbachev had postponed for two or three days presentation to parliament of a compromise plan to switch the economy to a market system.

The Soviet leader wanted more time to eliminate differences between Ryzhkov's proposals and those put forward by a group of academics led by economist Stanislav Shatalin, mentioned by at least one Soviet commentator as a possible future prime minister.

The differences on the key issues of price control and the division of powers between the centre and the republics are likely to be the focus of debate in the opening days of the new parliament.

Gorbachev appears to be leaning towards acceptance of the more radical Shatalin plan for moving to a market economy in 10 months to two years. Yeltsin

has called for adoption of this plan by the Russian Federation whatever the national parliament decides.

But the newspaper Trud said Sunday that there was much resistance to it among parliamentary deputies. "The position of President Gorbachev is of enormous significance... the authority of the president could be the decisive factor in the struggle between the two programmes," it said.

With the international Monetary Fund, the European Community and other potential foreign donors watching for a clear commitment to market reforms before approving aid packages, the country can ill afford delays.

The government is under pressure from all sides. Oil and gas to cripple output in the key Tyumen region of western Siberia, while the Urals city of Sverdlovsk says it will stop state-ordered deliveries to the industrial and defence sectors unless food supplies improve.

Soviet farmers, sitting on a possible record grain crop, have held back deliveries to the state to get higher prices from cooperatives or to build up fodder supplies ahead of a scheduled price rise in January.

The government has vowed to take strict measures to ensure that grain is turned over to the state.

Burmese opposition accused of trying to provoke army

BANGKOK (AP) — A military commander says the Burmese opposition is trying to provoke the army into a confrontation with the people, Burmese state radio reported.

Similar accusations were made by the military in September 1988 to justify its brutal suppression of the nationwide demonstrations for democracy.

Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, head of the command in the capital of Rangoon, made the warning Saturday, a day after authorities announced the arrests of the acting opposition leader and five other key dissidents.

Burmese authorities appear concerned about a possible repeat of the widespread pro-democracy street demonstrations that took place two years ago this

month.

Myo Nyunt met with army personnel living outside their regiment to caution them about his concerns, said the Saturday broadcast, a text of which was seen in Bangkok Sunday.

"Some unscrupulous persons and political parties, in order to cause disturbances and get people out onto the streets, are using atrocious tactics and plans of underground Communist agents," he was quoted as saying.

"Their plans are to list by rank defence services personnel living outside the regiment and veterans living in wards and townships. Then they will try to aggravate and bully the soldiers who are vulnerable and less educated," he said.

"If disturbances break out and

if there are any casualties when the army steps in, these unscrupulous persons will make a martyr out of the casualty and pit the army against the people and try to intensify the disturbances," he added.

Soldiers killed hundreds of people in crushing the September 1988 demonstrations. Army commander Gen. Saw Maung has ruled by martial law since.

Saw Maung permitted the country's first multiparty elections in three decades on May 27. But he has not allowed the opposition, which won in a landslide, to form a government and refused to release the opposition's two main leaders, Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo, both detained since July 1989.

Mohawk injured in fight with Canadian soldier

MONTREAL (R) — A Mohawk has been injured during a fight with Canadian soldiers who have laid siege to a defiant band of Indians during the tense eight-week conflict triggered by a minor land dispute.

The Canadian army said the Indian, a member of the militant Warriors Society, drew a knife on a soldier who was checking a razor-wire fence encircling a building and tract of pine woods where the Indians are holed up. It said another soldier helped his colleague subdue the Indian.

But Indian spokesmen said the Mohawk, whom they did not identify, was awakened by soldiers during the night and beaten.

Police said the Mohawk was taken to a hospital in Montreal with head injuries. Army spokesmen said one soldier was slashed across the face and the other stabbed in the stomach, but neither injury was serious.

About 20 armed Warriors, accompanied by a handful of women and children, have been surrounded by 400 soldiers at the town of Oka, a lakeside resort 30 kilometres west of Montreal.

They are the remnants of the Mohawk insurrection triggered on July 11 by a police raid on a blockade erected by Indians to stop the town of Oka from extending a golf course onto land they regard as sacred. One police officer was killed.

Hundreds of soldiers swept into the Oka Mohawk settlement last weekend, destroying barricades.

The Iroquois Confederation, which includes the Mohawk tribe, Saturday proposed measures to end the 60-day conflict, including a native peacekeeping force.

Canadian Indian Affairs Minister Tom Siddon rejected the proposal, which resembled offers previously turned down by the Quebec provincial and Canadian governments.

Salvador leader testifies in Jesuit massacre case

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — President Alfredo Cristiani has testified before a court investigating the murders of six Jesuit priests, reportedly to encourage witnesses to step forward.

Information Minister Mauricio Sandoval said Saturday in a telephone interview that Cristiani testified Friday.

Sandoval said he did not have further details, and that he did not know if Cristiani testified in his capacity as commander in chief of the armed forces.

Nine members of the armed forces, including a colonel and three lesser officers, have been charged in the murder of the priests, their housekeeper and her daughter last Nov. 16.

The massacre occurred during

a period of tight army security imposed during a major rebel offensive.

Some U.S. congressmen have threatened to seek cuts in aid to the Salvadoran military because of alleged army efforts to cover up the killings and to block the investigation.

Local radio station YSU reported that Cristiani testified before criminal court Judge Ricardo Zamora for more than two hours.

It quoted the president as saying he testified to "give an example and so that other witnesses will appear to testify before the judge."

The broadcast did not give details of his testimony.

Other military officials have given only written testimony.

U.K. double agent breaks 24 years of silence

LONDON (R) — British double agent George Blake, who has remained silent in Moscow for 24 years, has said he betrayed up to 400 people to the KGB and was converted to Communism by a senior British diplomat.

Blake was convicted in 1961 of working for the KGB while serving in Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). He served 5½ years in jail before escaping to the Soviet Union.

At his trial the judge said Blake had done most of the work of British intelligence since World War II. Blake publishes his memoirs, *No Other Choice*, in Britain later this month.

In an interview with the Sunday Times in Moscow, Blake freely admitted passing to the KGB the names of Communist agents recruited by SIS. Asked about how many agents he had betrayed, he said the total was more likely 400.

Blake, 68, insisted that the KGB had killed none of them. "I said that I would give them the names only on the guarantee that they would not be killed. They gave me that guarantee and I believed them."

Pressed on whether he would accept people might find this naive, Blake said, "Of course." But he added: "Nevertheless, it is true."

Blake said the SIS had been partly responsible for converting him to Communism by teaching him Russian and by introducing him to Marxist theory.

In an interview with the Sunday Express, Blake said the late Sir Vyvan Holt, a British diplomat, had converted him to Communism while the two men served in Korea.

Blake said Holt convinced him that "the future of the world lay with the Soviet Union and Communism... I came to the conclusion I was no longer fighting on the right side and that Communism should not be fought."

Blake has a Soviet wife and a young son with whom he lives in a spacious apartment near the Kremlin on a KGB pension.

He told the Sunday Express that as a youngster he had wanted to join the church.

"My great ambition up to the age of 21 was to become a minister of the church," he said. "I strongly believed in the dogma and I think I was better suited to the church than spying."

Both newspapers ran recent photographs of the bearded Blake looking dapper and young for his 68 years. One pictured his son and wife outside their dacha, east of Moscow.

America's golden door reopens to the public today

NEW YORK (AP) — Ellis Island, America's gateway for generations of immigrants, is ready for the masses after an eight-year, \$156 million restoration.

When the great steel doors are swung open to the public Monday those who pass through can drink in old world ambience through sight, sound and touch.

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum is dedicated to the 12 million unknowns who entered the so-called golden door, such as the Schneider family from Switzerland who came in 1920 and Tong Ly Jue, who left Canton, China, in 1880. Their stories are among several displayed.

Because nearly half of all Americans can trace their immigrant beginnings back to Ellis Island, "it's a museum that relates to everyone's personal experiences," said Diana Pardue, the island's chief curator.

The island, which actually is made up of three, nearly joined islands, stands about 3½ metres from the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour.

The depth of the nation's feelings about its immigrant roots is seen in the wealth of objects donated for the "treasures from home" exhibit: Delicate hand-made lace fans from Spain; yard-tall black leather boots with hand-embroidered toes from Ukraine; and a candy wrapper lovingly preserved some 57 years

by Nathan Solomon, a Polish Jew.

The wrapper and a notebook filled with recipes from the family's candy store are the only physical links Solomon has to his parents and brothers and sisters, who were killed in Germany.

A lot of people had these objects in their attics for years and didn't know what to do with them," Pardue says. "They're thrilled knowing someone is interested and someone will preserve them."

The museum, which opens with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sunday, will be filled with more than 2,000 artifacts, 1,500 photographs, oral histories, a library, two theatres, a children's learning centre and several interactive exhibits. In one, visitors can take the citizenship test given to immigrants.

At the cattlelike queue gates through which thousands of steerage passengers were herded into the formal, courtroom-like setting of the special board of inquiry room, visitors can learn what immigrants faced before being accepted or rejected as new Americans.

Between 1892 and 1954, Ellis Island was the main port of entry in New York. During peak years, an average of 5,000 people a day passed through the complex, which grew to include a hospital, dormitories, kitchen, laundry and

recreational facilities. On a single day — April 17, 1907 — 11,747 immigrants were processed.

Ellis became a relic by the mid-1920s, thanks to U.S. laws that had immigrants processed in their country of origin and laws setting limits on each ethnic group. The island was primarily used as a deportation centre in the 1930s.

When it closed in 1954, the government tried to give it to other agencies, none of which could afford its upkeep. Finally, it was turned over to the National Park Service 25 years ago.

The building sat untouched and uncared for until 1986. Windows were broken. The roof leaked. Chunks of plaster littered floors, and mold covered the walls. Scavengers had ripped fixtures from the walls, leaving behind gaping holes.

It took two years to dry out the interior. Pardue said the building was so dank, "we actually had a 5-foot-high sapling growing in the middle of one room."

One bright spot proved to be the magnificent tiled ceiling inside the registry room, installed during the 1910s by the Gosswein family after the blacktown wharf explosion — set by German spies — rocked Ellis Island.

Using rubber mallets, restorers tapped each of the 28,800 tiny tiles. Only 17 needed to be replaced.

Restorers battled not only mother nature; they also wrestled with some 1,000-year-old great spirits after they uncovered an Indian grave in the basement.

Representatives from the three remaining Delaware Indian tribes were called in and a reinterment ceremony was held.

Today, the copper domes gleam once more. The great hall's splendid chandeliers sparkle. The original wood balustrade, complete with well-worn dips and curves resulting from millions of elbow-leaving gallery watchers, is polished to a high sheen.

The ornate copper domes, vast windows and vaulted ceilings were intentionally lavish to impress the immigrants, park ranger Donna Bentley said.

"It was their first view of America and the architects wanted to live up to the immigrants' 'streets of gold' image," she said.

Pardue expects 1½ million visitors yearly. The Statue of Liberty draws about 2 million people each year.

The island's name comes from Samuel Ellis, who farmed the island and operated a tavern. The government bought the 27.5 acre (11-hectare) island from Ellis' descendants in the late 1800s for about \$10,000 in a condemnation proceeding.

Miss Illinois crowned Miss America 1991

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Miss Illinois Marjorie Judith Vincent, a pianist of Haitian descent who wants to practise international law, was crowned Miss America 1991 early Sunday.

Miss Vincent broke into tears and smiled brightly as she was serenaded with the traditional There She Is by Bert Parks, who returned to the pageant 10 years after he was fired as host. First runner-up was Miss South Carolina Mary Waddell Gainey, 24, of Hartsfield.

Second runner-up was Miss Tennessee Dana Brown, 25, Miss Texas Suzanne Lawrence, 21, was third runner-up. And Miss Louisiana Linnea Marie Fayard, 22, took fifth place.

The new Miss America receives a \$35,000 scholarship and makes appearances throughout the year. Last year's winner estimates she netted more than \$200,000 in personal appearance fees. The first runner-up receives \$20,000; the second runner-up \$14,000; the third, runner-up \$11,000; and the fourth runner-up \$8,000. The other five semi-finalists receive \$6,000 and the other 40 contestants get \$2,500 apiece.

Miss Vincent, 25, is a third-year law student at Duke University who graduated from DePaul University in 1988 with a degree in music.

18th century gunboat found in icy lake

NEW YORK (R) — An 18th century British gunboat discovered deep in the icy waters of a lake may be the oldest intact warship ever found in North America and is the only vessel of its kind, researchers said.

The vessel, called the Land Tortoise, was found in June in Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains of upper New York state about 96 kilometres south of the Canadian border.

The vessel is a Radeau — French for raft — and researchers who found it say it may be the only one of its kind. The Radeau was built by American carpenters for the British in 1758 during the French and Indian war and was apparently intentionally sunk in shallow waters for the winter to keep it from being destroyed by the enemy, said historian Russell Bellco.

They planned to refloat it in the spring — a common practice. But the ship apparently drifted into deeper waters where it remained until this year when researchers found it with sophisticated radar, he said.

The 51-foot (17-metre) flat-bottomed vessel has seven cannon ports and high sloping sides that curve inward over the ship at a steep angle, protecting gunners on board, the researchers said. They vessel was rigged for one mast.

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Mother Teresa calls re-election God's plan

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — Mother Teresa says God's "own plans" dictated that she be re-elected to head her charity despite her desire to retire.

"I was expecting to be free, but God has his own plans," Mother Teresa said Sunday when she met reporters for the first time after Saturday's election for a third six-year term.

The balloting was to have been a vote to choose a successor of the frail, 80-year-old nun, who has come to be known as the "saint of the gutters" for her work with the destitute and the poor.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate withdrew her decision to step down as superior general of the Missionaries of Charity after ousting from around the world voted for her to stay.

Calcutta's Vicar General Monsignor Francis Gomes, who presided over the secret balloting and announced the result, said Mother Teresa had little choice but to accept the unanimous vote.

Mother Teresa said she had been firm on stepping down — until the balloting forced her to change her decision.

"These things cannot be decided beforehand," she said.

Last March, Pope John Paul II bowed to Mother Teresa's wish to retire and accepted her resignation as head of the order she founded. He had rejected her earlier requests to step aside.

Mother Teresa suffered a nearly fatal heart attack a year ago. She returned to work but asked for retirement within a few months.

Asked if she would slow her pace, Mother Teresa replied: "We have sisters who are capable of helping."

But she said she would con-

tinue to travel according to the needs.

Along with Mother Teresa, four councillors to assist her also were elected.

Sister Fredrick, a Maltese nun who previously was head of the charity's U.S. chapter based in Washington, was elected as Mother Teresa's deputy. The other three members of the council are Sister Joseph Michael, Sister Monica and Sister Priscilla Lewis, the spokeswoman of the charity who was re-elected.

Mother Teresa has been elected to a further six-year term. The constitution of her order calls for a maximum two terms, but the clause had been waived by the Pope in her case.

Ballots were cast by 103 delegates summoned from missions around the world. Elections for the mission are held every six years, but this one was held a year ahead of schedule because Mother Teresa had wanted to retire.

The Yugoslav-born Roman Catholic nun began her work in earnest for the poor and helpless 43 years ago in the gutters of Calcutta, India's most densely populated city in the eastern state of West Bengal.

Mother Teresa gave up a comfortable teaching job at a Roman Catholic school to set up a series of homes for the dying in Calcutta and eventually throughout the world.

Today, the missionaries of Charity operate 430 homes in 95 countries for lepers, cripples, destitute consumptives, abandoned babies and others with no place to turn.

She was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1979.